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WEIHAIWEI.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1927.

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PREFATORY NOTE.

Historical, Geographical and Descriptive.

The leased Territory of Weihaiwei is situated in the north-eastern peninsular portion of the Chinese province of Shantung. It consists of the island of Liukung (Liu-kung-tao*), a few uninhabited islets and an extensive mainland territory, the whole comprising an area of 285 square miles. By far the greater portion of the whole area was formerly comprised within the Chinese magisterial district of Wên-têng, but the most easterly section fell within the district of Jung-ch'êng which extends to the Shantung Promontory. The magisterial city of Wên-têng lies 10 miles beyond the southern boundary of the leased Territory, that of Jung-Ch'êng about 13 miles beyond the eastern boundary. These walled cities, of no great size or importance, are overshadowed by the treaty-port of Chefoo, which lies 60 miles to the west of Weihaiwei by road, and 40 miles by sea.

The seat of government is Port Edward (known to the Chinese as Ma-t'ou—"landing-place"), formerly an insignificant hamlet but now a considerable town of about 20,000 inhabitants. The

* Literally, the island of Mr. Liu. This Mr. Liu, of whom so little definite is known that it is not certain when he lived, is supposed to have dwelt with his wife on the island, where they devoted themselves with great zeal to various benevolent activities. The reputation they left behind them was such that they were raised to the rank of local divinities. Their images are to be found in a Temple in Port Edward.

ent walled town of Weihaiwei has always remained under Chinese jurisdiction and is governed by a minor official subordinate to the District Magistrate of Wên-têng. His authority does not extend beyond the gates of the town, which is little more than a walled village and is decreasing in population and importance *pari passu* with the growth of Port Edward.

The coast-line of the leased Territory is about 72 miles and the land frontier about 40 miles long. The mainland consists of hill-land, some of it bare and rugged, and fertile and well-cultivated valleys which support a population of over 170,000. Apart from the merchants and shopkeepers of Port Edward, and a few hundred people who make their living mainly by fishing, the population of the Territory is almost wholly agricultural.

Weihaiwei was a fortified naval port before the outbreak of the China-Japan war of 1894-95. The forts which had been constructed not long before by German engineers failed to save Weihaiwei from falling into the hands of the Japanese during that war, and a large part of the Chinese fleet based on Weihaiwei was captured or sunk. Admiral Ting Ju-ch'ang, who commanded the fleet, committed suicide. These events took place early in 1895. The Japanese held the island and district for some time after the war, pending the final settlement of the terms of peace. In 1898, following on the seizure of Port Arthur by Russia, the British Government asked for and obtained a lease of Weihaiwei and the adjacent territory "for so long a period as Port Arthur shall remain in the occupation of Russia." In 1901 the Territory, which had been administered first by naval and then by military officers, was placed under the control of the Colonial Office, and has since been administered by a civil Commissioner appointed by the Crown.

In addition to the leased Territory, over which the British Government exercises sole jurisdiction, there is a much larger area (estimated at about 1,500 square miles) within which Great Britain may erect fortifications, station troops, or take any other measures necessary for defensive purposes, and may also purchase such sites as may be necessary for water supply, communications, and hospitals. It was agreed that within that zone (which extends from about halfway between Chefoo and Weihaiwei in an easterly direction to the Shantung Promontory) Chinese administration would not be interfered with, but that no troops other than Chinese or British should be allowed therein. It is worthy of remark that during the thirty years of British occupation of the leased Territory she has never exercised, in the larger area, any of the rights which she possesses. Nor has she ever interfered with Chinese jurisdiction in the walled town, though by the terms of the Weihaiwei Convention that jurisdiction was subject to and limited by British naval and military requirements for the defence of the leased Territory.

The language spoken by the Chinese of Weihaiwei is a dialect of northern mandarin, easily understood by speakers of Pekingese. The currency consists of silver dollars (Mexican, Chinese, and British) and Chinese subsidiary silver and copper coinage. The notes of the British banks operating in China are current, and are supplemented by local notes of small denomination (one-dollar and *tiao* notes representing 1,000 copper cash) issued by Chinese trading firms under the supervision and control of the local Chambers of Commerce. In their dealings with one another the people use the ordinary Chinese weights and measures, but the merchants have acquired a knowledge of British standards as well, and make use of them in their dealings with the local Government and with foreign traders.

Since the British occupation began, almost thirty years ago, the Territory, though not very advantageously situated for purposes of trade, has shown slow but steady progress and has been tranquil and prosperous. For the last seven years it has been wholly self-supporting. Very harmonious relations exist between the British authorities and the Chinese residents, who appreciate the immunity they have enjoyed under British rule from the horrors and perils of Chinese civil strife and from the ruthless extortion and callous misgovernment which during the past few years have fallen to the lot of their fellow-provincials in other parts of Shantung.

At the Washington Conference of 1921, the British Government announced its intention of returning the Territory to China, and a Rendition Agreement has been ready for signature since 1924. Unfortunately, the absence of a Chinese Government which could sign the Agreement and accept rendition in the name of the Republic of China has necessitated the postponement of rendition, which His Majesty's Government are anxious to carry out as soon as political conditions in China render such action possible and justifiable.

The following Report deals with the calendar year 1927, except in respect of finance. The financial year begins on 1st April, and for statistical and other purposes it is convenient to give in the Annual Report facts and figures relating to the whole of that year. Section II, therefore, which concerns finance only, deals with the financial year ending on 31st March, 1928.

I.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The year 1927 is regarded by the Chinese as one of the most disastrous Shantung has known since 1867, when the greater part of the province was laid waste by the Nien Fei rebels from 1853 onwards. Many natives of the province declare that the pitiable conditions of the past year surpassed even those of the Nien Fei period, and that to find a parallel it is necessary to go back to the chaos that marked the closing years of the Ming Dynasty, during the second quarter of the seventeenth century.

But there was one small portion of Shantung which in 1927 was outside the sphere of action of bandits, Chinese armies and extortionate officials, and was therefore happily exempt from the horrors undergone by millions of the Shantung peasantry. That little oasis was the leased Territory of Weihaiwei, which throughout 1927 enjoyed uninterrupted tranquillity and prosperity.

It is well known that during 1927 tens of thousands of ruined and half-starving natives of Shantung abandoned their devastated homes and migrated to Manchuria. It is probably less well known that Weihaiwei also became a haven of refuge for many. Numerous Chinese of eastern Shantung who found conditions in their own districts intolerable, owing not only to banditry but also to the rapacity and misgovernment of their own officials, were glad to find a safe refuge for themselves and their families under the British flag. Chinese merchants in Chefoo and other neighbouring districts, who could not carry on business there on account of the ruthless extortion practised by the local authorities, also entered British territory and opened business in Port Edward. The consequence is that the port has entered upon a period of prosperity and activity that it never knew in former years, trade is flourishing and expanding, land values are steadily rising, owners of house property are reaping a golden harvest from enhanced rents, and the building trade is active as never before. It is estimated that the wealth and population of Port Edward have doubled in five years, and if present political conditions in the province remain unchanged it is more than probable that the next five years will show a further equally remarkable advance.

The prosperity of the past year has not been confined to the mercantile population of Port Edward. Although the harvests of 1927 were bad, owing to an unusually dry summer which at one time threatened a general failure of crops, the agricultural classes were saved from disaster owing to the good prices obtainable for farm produce and the flourishing condition of the export trade in groundnuts, and shared to no small extent in the general prosperity of the Territory.

During the summer a battalion of British troops (the 1st Middlesex Regiment) was stationed in the Territory, and a large convalescent camp was established for officers and men of the Shanghai Defence Force. The decision to open this camp was a well-deserved tribute to the excellence of the Weihaiwei climate: and the friendly relations that were speedily established between the British soldiers and the Chinese inhabitants of the Territory, and maintained throughout the whole summer and autumn, is an indication of the total absence of any anti-foreign feeling among the people. The presence of a considerable body of British troops was in itself a good stimulus to trade, and brought profitable employment to considerable numbers of contractors and shopkeepers and dealers in farm produce.

The convalescent camp, to which was attached a temporary military hospital, was opened in July and remained in use until October. The first party of convalescents arrived on 22nd July, the last on 7th September. There were five parties in all, comprising nearly one thousand men besides officers.

After the departure of the Middlesex battalion in October their place was taken by a company of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment, which constituted the garrison of the Territory throughout the winter.

The China squadron of the British fleet, commanded by Vice-Admiral Sir Reginald V. Tyrwhitt, Bart., K.C.B., D.S.O., D.C.L., spent a great part of the summer at Weihaiwei. Another distinguished naval visitor was Rear-Admiral W. H. D. Boyle, C.B., commanding the First Cruiser Squadron. No foreign warships visited the port during the year.

At the close of 1927 six years had passed since Lord Balfour announced at the Washington Conference that Great Britain was prepared, under suitable conditions, to restore the Territory of Weihaiwei to the full sovereignty of China. It is not the fault of His Majesty's Government that rendition has not yet taken place. Shortly after the Washington Conference had closed, an Anglo-Chinese Commission met and drew up a Rendition Agreement under which Weihaiwei was to be restored to China and opened as a commercial port, and the British fleet was to be allowed to continue to use the harbour as a summer anchorage, and at least for a short term of years was to retain certain privileges on the island of Liukung. The Rendition Convention was ready for signature in November, 1924, but the *coup d'état* in Peking which took place at that time and resulted in the overthrow of the President and Parliament necessitated the postponement of rendition pending the establishment of a settled Government recognised by the Powers. Meanwhile, the Territory remains in British hands, though it has been definitely stated by His Majesty's Ministers in Parliament and elsewhere that the delay in rendition does not signify any change in the policy of His Majesty's Government, which is ready and willing to sign the Rendition Agreement as soon as a Chinese Government has emerged which is in a position to ratify it and carry out its terms.

The unavoidable postponement of rendition has been regarded by the inhabitants of the Territory as an unmixed blessing. So far from there being any impatience or resentment shown by the people on account of that postponement, they make no attempt to disguise their hope that the British flag may long continue to afford them that peace and protection which they know they could not hope to obtain under the present Government of Shantung.

II.—FINANCE.*

The following tables give the totals of net revenue and expenditure for the six years ending with the financial year 1927-28 :—

	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<i>Revenue</i> ...	183,134	198,865	189,554	219,142	240,763	256,493·85
<i>Expenditure</i> ...	184,796	200,566	179,944	187,432	214,331	247,013·63
<i>Excess of Revenue over Expenditure</i> }	—	—	9,610	31,710	26,432	9,480·22

The following figures, which show the difference between the estimated and the actual revenue for 1927-28 under the four general heads of revenue, illustrate the observations made in Section I regarding the prosperity of the year under review. It should be observed that there were no changes in taxation during the year and the higher figures are therefore solely due to the increased yield from existing sources :—

	<i>Estimated for 1927-28.</i>	<i>Actual for 1927-28.</i>	<i>Excess of Actual over Estimated Revenue.</i>
	\$	\$	\$
Licences and Internal Revenue	179,496	210,438	30,942
Fees of Court, etc. ...	19,750	22,726	2,976
Rents of Government Property, etc.	9,500	9,829	329
Interest and Miscellaneous ...	8,800	13,501	4,701
Totals ...	217,546	256,494	38,948

In addition to general revenue, there are special assessments or surtaxes on Shipping Dues and Land Tax for Harbour Improvements and Educational purposes, respectively. The Shipping Dues surtax in 1927-28 amounted to \$18,225.72 and the Educational surtax to \$1,226.92. Thus the gross revenue collected by the Government during the year under review amounted to \$275,946.49.

It is estimated that the revenue for 1928-29, irrespective of the special assessments, will reach about \$340,000—an increase of no less than \$122,454 over the original estimate for 1927-28. The estimated increase is due to a revised scale of Shipping Dues, which will come into force on 1st May, 1928, to the adoption of improved methods of supervision and collection, and to the increasing prosperity of the port.

* For the purposes of this section only, this Report deals with the financial year 1927-28, which closed on 31st March, 1928.

In 1898, when the British flag was hoisted in Weihaiwei, there was practically no trade and the people were poverty-stricken. In 1900 the local revenue from all sources amounted to no more than \$4,077. This increased to \$21,188 in the following year, and by degrees the Territory began to show a moderate degree of prosperity. In 1903-4 the revenue was \$58,364.02, raised as follows:—

		\$
Licences and Internal Revenue	... ..	16,749.88
Fees of Court, etc.	... ..	2,291.83
Rents of Government Property, etc.	... ..	36,420.31
Interest and Miscellaneous	... ..	2,902.00
Total	... ..	<u>\$58,364.02</u>

For nearly twenty years of the British administration a grant-in-aid from Imperial funds was necessary to meet the annual deficit. The total amount of money so provided by the British Exchequer reached the equivalent of £144,500. The first year in respect of which no Imperial subsidy was found to be necessary was 1916-17. Further grants were required in the three following years, but since 1921-22 the Territory has been entirely self-supporting.

III.—PRODUCTION.

(A) Agriculture.

All but a small fraction of the inhabitants of the leased Territory are engaged in agricultural pursuits. That the agricultural methods and implements used are still of a primitive description is due not merely to the well-known conservatism of the Chinese people but to their lack of capital and the diminutive size of their holdings. Nevertheless in the matter of intensive cultivation and in making the best possible use of their land the farmers of Weihaiwei have little to learn from the West. They constitute a class of small peasant proprietors. Those few who work on the land of others do so because their own farms are too small to supply all their needs and do not occupy their whole time. The principal crops are wheat, millet, barley, maize, kaoliang, beans of several kinds, sweet potatoes, and groundnuts. There is also a little cotton; and there are many varieties of vegetables. The cultivation of groundnuts has increased enormously in recent years. They are now the main source of such modest prosperity as is enjoyed by the farmers of Weihaiwei, and are also by far the most important article of export. The export is not confined to the groundnuts grown in the Territory, but includes the large quantities which are brought into the Territory for the purpose of export.

The following is a list of the principal crops and their average yield per acre :—

						<i>Bushels per acre.</i>
Barbados Millet	...	...	...	...	...	30
Barley	...	...	...	...	...	17
Beans	...	...	...	...	...	16
Kaoliang, Kaffir Corn	...	...	...	...	...	31
Maize	...	...	...	...	...	24
Sweet Potatoes	...	...	...	...	...	118
Wheat	...	...	...	...	...	19

Of groundnuts, the average yield is 2,395 pounds an acre.

In the Census Report for 1921, from which the above figures are taken, it is remarked that "it is quite common to see three kinds of crops on one plot of land at one and the same time. Wheat, nearly ready for the sickle, beans three parts grown, and cotton just planted; or wheat and sorghum with beans sprouting."

The year 1927 was a bad year for the farmers, though there was not the complete failure of crops which caused a disastrous famine in the west of the province. In the Territory the average yield was about 50 per cent. of the normal. This was due to the lack of rain throughout an unusually hot summer. The only crops that were fairly satisfactory were turnips, wheat, and sweet potatoes.

(B) Forestry, Ornamental Trees and Shrubs, Fruit-trees, etc.

Hampered by limited resources the Government has not been able to carry out any comprehensive scheme of forestation, and except in the vicinity of Port Edward and on the Island, in a few mountain ravines, in the immediate neighbourhood of villages and in graveyards, and along Government high roads, the Territory must be pronounced to be comparatively treeless. The appearance of the Island, originally bleak and bare, has been transformed out of all recognition by the Government fir plantations which have done very well in spite of the ravages of the pine-moth (*gastropacha pini*). Similar plantations in other parts of the Territory would necessitate the employment of a large staff of forest guards, to prevent the people from cutting down the young trees for firewood. The largest trees to be found in the Territory are more or less isolated specimens of the sophora Japonica, catalpa and maidenhair (*gingko biloba* or *Salisburia adiantifolia*). The last-named beautiful and interesting tree is found, as usual in both China and Japan, in proximity to sequestered Buddhist or Taoist temples. Several specimens of the gingko and sophora are regarded locally as sacred trees and are hung with the thank-offerings (usually small scraps of red cloth) of persons whose prayers are believed to have been answered by the tree-spirit.

Many trees and shrubs have been introduced into Weihaiwei by the British Government and have done well. Among the latter are the *wegelia rosea*, *lagerstroemia indica*, silver elder, sea buckthorn, *spiroea callosa*, *forsythia suspensa*, and *hibiscus syriacus*.

Fruit would grow well if the people could be induced to take a greater interest than they do in its cultivation. Apricots, pears, and grapes are indigenous but the two former are of comparatively poor quality. The British Government has introduced several kinds of Western fruit-trees—apple, pear, cherry, plum, peach, nectarine, and fig. Most of them are capable of thriving in the climate and soil of Weihaiwei, but fruit-culture has not yet engaged the serious attention of more than a few individuals.

(C) Sericulture.

Large tracts of hill-land in Weihaiwei are covered with scrub oak (*quercus serrata*), the leaves of which are used for feeding the wild silk-worm. In 1903 it was stated by a botanical expert that about 85,000 acres in the Territory were so planted. Silk-weaving exists to a certain extent as a cottage industry, and during the past few years several silk-filatures have been established, but most of the raw silk is sent to Chefoo to be turned into the well-known Shantung pongee. The silk-stocking industry, however, is now a well-established one in Weihaiwei and meets with considerable success. It is anticipated that sericulture in this Territory will in future derive considerable benefit from the excellent work now being done by the Chefoo Silk Improvement Commission, as the cultivators are beginning to learn that their industry is capable of great expansion with improved methods of cultivating the scrub-oak and utilising only disease-free silk-worm eggs, the latter of which are now easily obtainable.*

It has been observed by those interested in the silk trade of Shantung that there is an increasing and improved output of the white or mulberry-fed silk piecegoods, often known as "Chefoo white pongees." In Weihaiwei a beginning has been made of mulberry culture, and if this is persevered in the probability is that the silk industry of the Territory will make rapid progress and will contribute much more than it does at present to the export returns.

(D) Fisheries.

The sea-fishing industry in Weihaiwei is prosperous and profitable and is attracting capital, with the result that there is now a fleet of motor fishing boats employed in the industry and there is good reason to believe that with the adoption of up-to-date salting and

* The Chefoo Silk Improvement Commission was founded in 1920 "for the purpose of improving all local silk products with the idea of increasing the trade and prosperity of the country in general."

ice-storage methods the export trade, which is already considerable, will undergo a great expansion. Salted fish from Weihaiwei already finds a ready market in Shanghai and Hong Kong. The year 1927 was the best year for the fishing industry in Weihaiwei for at least ten years.

(E) Mining.

Some attempts were made, in the early days of the British occupation, to prospect for minerals in the Territory. Gold exists in small quantities, and between 1904 and 1906 the Weihaiwei Gold-mining Company, with a capital of \$300,000, installed a 20-stamp mill with a capacity of 2,500 tons a month. At one time 400 Chinese were employed at the mine. In 1906, however, the attempt to extract gold in paying quantities was given up as hopeless and the Company went into liquidation. Many prospecting licences were taken out both by the Gold-mining Company and private individuals, but the results were meagre.

(F) Salt.

This commodity is produced by evaporation in the lagoons on the coast in quantities that now so far exceed local requirements that nearly 70 per cent. of the total amount produced is exported. As salt is in China a Government monopoly its import into Chinese ports from Weihaiwei is prohibited by the Chinese authorities; but there are large shipments, from time to time, to Hong Kong, Korea, and Japan. The actual amount exported varies greatly from year to year, as it depends on the fluctuations of market prices and other conditions in the importing ports. The following are the export figures for the last six years :—

							<i>Piculs.</i>
1922	...	...	...	...	...	...	259,468
1923	...	...	...	...	...	...	724,832
1924	...	...	...	...	...	...	68,656
1925	...	...	...	...	...	...	148,348
1926	...	...	...	...	...	...	195,919
1927	...	...	...	...	...	...	46,898

The salt-pan area has enormously increased since the British occupation began. In 1902 it was less than 30 acres in extent. In 1921 it was estimated at 600 acres; it is now nearly 6,000 *mu* or 1,000 acres. The number of salt-pans is about 360.

(G) Lace-making.

This is a thriving minor industry in the leased Territory. It was introduced by the Roman Catholic Convent, which has trained and is still training large numbers of village girls both in the art of designing and in practical bobbin-work. Many of these girls now

work for Chinese employers, and produce an article which is highly prized by visitors to the Territory. (See also Section XI.)

(H) Bricks and Tiles.

The manufacture of these was in 1927 perhaps the most prosperous of the local industries, owing to the activity in the building trade, especially in the Port Edward area.

(I) Miscellaneous.

Various small industries have sprung into existence to meet the demands of visitors to Weihaiwei. Among these may be mentioned the making of tea-sets (pottery and pewter), walking-sticks inlaid with silver and pewter, and model junks.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

Eight hundred and fifty-eight merchant steamers with a total tonnage of 1,029,478 tons called at Port Edward during 1927, as compared with 838 steamers with a tonnage of 943,361 in 1926. The majority of the steamers were British (395), but the Japanese followed fairly closely with 312. Chinese steamers were 122, German 14, Norwegian 5, American and Dutch 4 each, Danish and Italian 1 each.

Junks numbered 1,670 inward and 452 outward, as compared with 1,299 and 434 in 1926.

The volume of shipping has gradually increased during the British occupation from very modest beginnings. In 1902 (the first year for which shipping records were properly kept) the steamers entering the port numbered only 146, with a total tonnage of 151,809. In 1903 the Shipping Dues accounted for \$1,067 of the Government revenue. In the year under review they had risen to \$83,752, and a very considerable expansion is anticipated in the immediate future.

A noteworthy increase has taken place recently in the direct shipment of agricultural produce, preponderantly groundnuts, to America and Europe. This trade is mainly in the hands of British ocean-going steamers. The growth in the trade in groundnuts may be gauged from the fact that in 1903 the export amounted to the modest total of 475 piculs. In 1910 it had risen to 141,293 piculs, and in the year under review to about 363,000 piculs, valued at \$3,626,458.

The total volume of trade in 1927 amounted to 1,691,843 units valued at \$17,650,100, as compared with 1,632,827 and \$15,794,586, respectively, in 1926.

The total volume of imports was valued at \$11,182,989, and exports at \$6,467,112. The excess value of imports over exports is therefore \$4,715,877.

The movement of merchandise is shown in the following summary :—

	<i>Imports.</i>	<i>Exports.</i>	<i>Increase or decrease on 1926.</i>
	\$	\$	\$
Bean cakes	322,530	4,040	+ 200,352
Bean oil	79,170	4,640	+ 54,050
Cigarettes and tobacco	495,770	75,925	+ 212,251
Coal	160,973	4,896	— 976
Cotton, raw and yarn	1,327,080	2,485	— 1,092,825
Flour	364,190	9,209	— 1,227
Piecegoods	2,221,800	15,400	— 356,400
Gunny bags	197,100	17,700	— 132,120
Paper	151,281	3,832	+ 26,519
Provisions	243,805	14,570	+ 99,435
Rice	982,920	104,700	+ 445,128
Sugar and sugar cane	320,610	93,702	+ 123,422
Indian corn	411,961	17,956	+ 132,481
Fish, salt or dried	291,720	331,380	+ 32,560
Groundnuts and kernels	459,920	4,086,378	+ 723,347
Groundnut oil	769,128	1,096,296	— 2,634
Millet... ..	122,868	11,760	+ 20,070
Kerosene oil	198,670	643	+ 94,660
Chinese wines	435,848	4,872	+ 118,346
Eggs	12,372	114,144	— 21,328

Business as a whole was good and suffered no direct loss from the civil war, though other ports in Shantung were very adversely affected. Some of the local Chinese firms were hard hit owing to losses sustained through their agents in Hong Kong and Tientsin in connection with a heavy fall in the price of rice—the result of an exceptionally good rice-crop in South China. Trade was injuriously affected to some extent by the strike of the officers of Messrs. Butterfield & Swire's coasting vessels and the consequent inadequacy of shipping facilities for two or three months. On the other hand, local trade and industry received a welcome stimulus from the presence of a considerable body of British troops and an unusually large number of British men-of-war.

Of the cotton goods imported into the Territory, it is estimated that about 90 per cent. comes from Japan. English cotton, though superior in quality, cannot compete with the cheaper Japanese article. The following quotation from a recent Chefoo report gives some indication of the present position. "Japanese cotton-goods manufacturers have been making important headway in the Chinese market at the expense of the English industry. The Japanese manufacturers have borrowed everything from Britain including the most modern mechanical equipment and methods of distribution. Japanese imitations of new British designs appear on the Chinese market at lower prices within three or four weeks of their introduction by British traders."

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

(A) Roads.

The development of Weihaiwei has been hampered by inadequate means of internal communication and by the lack of roads and railways into the interior of the province. About 50 miles of roads in the Territory, fit for cart and carriage traffic, have been constructed by the British Government. These compare favourably with the 23 miles of mud roads which existed in 1902, but it must be confessed that there is still room for great improvement. None of the existing Government roads reaches the actual boundaries of the Territory, and there is no lateral communication between the two main roads. The roads are narrow and badly ballasted and the bridges are of cheap construction and not suitable for heavy traffic. Recognising the deficiencies of its road-system the Government has hitherto prohibited all motor traffic in Weihaiwei. An effort is now being made, with meagre financial resources, to remedy some of the worst defects. The total prohibition of motor traffic was temporarily suspended during 1927 in favour of the motor trucks and ambulances urgently needed by the military authorities, and it is intended to go a step further in 1928 by withdrawing the prohibition against the import of privately-owned light cars. The Government has itself made arrangements to purchase three motor-cycles with side-cars for the use of the police and the medical authorities, and though there are many parts of the Territory which will be beyond the reach of these vehicles it is anticipated that they will soon prove their usefulness and justify their purchase.

The Chinese inhabitants of the Territory are extremely appreciative of such roads as the Government has been able to construct, and many villages have united their resources for the purpose of providing additional roads of their own which, if not always suitable for motor or carriage traffic, are serviceable for country carts. These roads are improved and extended to some extent every year, and Government encourages the villagers concerned by occasional small grants of money.

(B) Telephones and Telegraphs.

Lack of financial resources is responsible for many defects in the administrative system of Weihaiwei. One of the most serious of these defects is the lack of telephonic communication with the various police posts. At present there are no telephones outside the Port Edward area and the Island. An urgent need is to connect Port Edward by telephone with the western frontier police post of Lu-tao-k'ou, as it is the western and south-western districts of the leased Territory that are most exposed to the menace of bandits.

For telegraphic communication with the outside world Weihaiwei is dependent on a Chinese-owned land-line to Chefoo, and on a temporary wireless installation erected by the military authorities during the summer of 1927. The British-owned cable, though still in existence and serviceable, has not been in use since the early part of 1923.

(C) Steamship Communications.

Steamship communication with Shanghai and Tientsin is regular and frequent, services of passenger and cargo steamers being maintained by the firms of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire and Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co. There is also fairly frequent but irregular steamship communication with other ports such as Hong Kong, Tsingtao, Chefoo and Dairen.

(D) Lighthouses.

There are two lighthouses which were originally the property of the Chinese Maritime Customs Service and were bought by the British Government in 1901 for the cost price of their construction, slightly under £1,500. The Weihaiwei Government maintains these lighthouses and pays the salaries of the staff.

(E) Posts.

There are agencies of the Hong Kong Post Office at Port Edward and on the Island, and the stamps used are Hong Kong stamps surcharged "China." Foreign mails are carried by the shipping firms of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire in accordance with the terms of their mail contract with the Government of the leased Territory. Communication with Europe is by the Suez and Siberian routes. Letters from London to Weihaiwei by the sea route take on an average about 40 days in transit, those despatched by the Siberian route about 16 to 22 days. The Chinese Postal Administration has a branch in the walled city of Weihaiwei which usefully supplements the postal services conducted through the British office.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

(A) Civil and Criminal Jurisdiction.

The judicial system and procedure of Weihaiwei are laid down in the Weihaiwei Order in Council, 1901. Under this instrument, a High Court was established and a Judge appointed under His Majesty's Sign Manual. Hitherto the Judge of the High Court has been non-resident, and the post has been filled—for reasons of economy—by the Judge, Assistant Judge or Crown Advocate of His Majesty's Supreme Court in Shanghai. As his visits to

Weihaiwei are necessarily very rare—averaging one visit of three or four days in each calendar year—it was necessary to provide some means whereby the current civil and criminal work could be carried on with regularity and despatch: for though serious crime in Weihaiwei is comparatively rare (less rare, unhappily, than it used to be before the Revolution), the volume of civil litigation is very large. The powers of the Judge of the High Court were therefore conferred upon the Commissioner himself. The two Magistrates also exercise delegated judicial powers, but it is provided that the High Court (constituted either by the Commissioner or the Judge or by both—sitting together) has concurrent jurisdiction in the magisterial courts and may order any case, civil or criminal, pending before a Magistrate to be removed into the High Court.

Civil and criminal jurisdiction is exercised, so far as circumstances admit, on the principles of and in conformity with the Statute and other law of England; but in civil suits between Chinese the Court is allowed to follow Chinese law and custom so far as they are not repugnant to British conceptions of justice and morality.

Death sentences must be confirmed by the Commissioner, who also exercises the prerogative of pardon or commutation of sentence.

The number of civil suits commenced during 1927 was 281, as compared with 239 in 1926. With the exception of three of these cases, two of which were heard by the Judge and one by the Officer Administering the Government, all were dealt with by the Senior District Officer and Magistrate acting with the delegated powers of the High Court. The majority of the civil suits (143) were debt cases. Land and property disputes numbered 79. The other lawsuits were concerned with bankruptcies (17), matrimonial (18), and miscellaneous matters affecting Chinese village and family customs such as disputed adoptions.

Criminal and police cases numbered 998, as compared with 702 in 1926. The total number of convicted persons was 2,585, of whom 191 were sent to gaol and the remainder fined. Breaches of the Gambling and Opium Ordinances accounted for no fewer than 462 of the cases dealt with. Crime of a more serious nature was rather more prevalent than usual, largely owing to the influx of disorderly characters from Chinese territory. They included 2 cases of murder, 6 armed robberies, 18 cases of burglary and housebreaking, and 68 larceny cases.

All these cases were dealt with by the Junior District Officer and Magistrate with the exception of 13 of the more serious cases: namely, those concerned with murder, armed robbery, burglary, housebreaking, and rape. These were all heard by the Officer Administering the Government or Commissioner with the exception of one murder case which was heard by the Judge, Sir Peter

Grain. There was one conviction on a capital charge, but owing to the Jury's recommendation to mercy, which was endorsed by the Judge, the death sentence was commuted by the Commissioner to 10 years' penal servitude.

(B) Police.

The Police Force consists of three European Inspectors, 19 Chinese non-commissioned officers, and 142 men. One Inspector and 17 Chinese are stationed on the island of Liukung, and one Inspector and 56 Chinese at Port Edward; while the remainder of the Force is distributed among 13 posts in the interior and on the boundary. The increase in the reported cases of armed robbery, and the constant menace of banditry, which has become increasingly prevalent on the Chinese side of the boundary, necessitated the reinforcement of the border posts during the autumn. The addition of ten men brought the total strength of the Force up to the figures given above.

Though no serious complaints can be made against the Police as a body, the lack of adequate European supervision (owing to shortage of staff) is undoubtedly prejudicial to discipline, and it has unfortunately been necessary from time to time to punish or dismiss members of the Force for yielding to the many pecuniary temptations by which they are always surrounded. The successive increases in the pay of the Police have not kept pace with the steady rise in the price of food-stuffs, and a good deal of discontent exists in the Force on this account. It is hoped, however, that this cause of dissatisfaction will soon be removed.

(C) Prisons.

The Weihaiwei Prison is situated on the island of Liukung and is under the control of the Inspector of Police for the island, who is assisted by Chinese warders. There is accommodation for 70 male and 20 female prisoners. There is also a small temporary prison with seven cells at Port Edward.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

No new public works of any importance were undertaken during the year, but there was a considerable expenditure in much-needed repairs to bridges, roads, drains, and public buildings.

The most urgent need of the Territory in the sphere of public works is the extension and improvement of the road-system, a subject which has been dealt with in Section V. There are also much-needed harbour improvements which should be put in hand as soon as funds are available. A nucleus of such funds exists in the shape of the special Shipping Dues surtax which has already

provided for the construction of "Victory Pier,"* and will it is hoped provide in similar manner for the construction of a break-water and for foreshore reclamation.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH, ETC.

(A) Public Health.

During 1927 Weihaiwei maintained its reputation as one of the healthiest places on the coast of China. There were no epidemics among the Chinese, and apart from a small outbreak of whooping-cough among the European child visitors—an outbreak which originated in an imported case—and a few cases of typhoid among the troops from Shanghai, the origin of which was not definitely ascertained, the health of the foreign community was excellent.

The total number of Chinese patients who attended the three Government hospitals (those at Port Edward, Wên-Ch'üan-t'ang in the heart of the Territory, and on the Island) was 18,613, of whom 304 were in-patients.

Kala-azar, a disease which is somewhat prevalent in the Territory, is being successfully treated by the latest method—intravenous injections of antimony tartrate. Most of the cases occur among children under 15. Adult cases are comparatively rare. Out of 96 cases treated in 1927, only 6 were over 40 years of age.

Leprosy is a disease which occurs in most parts of China, including the province of Shantung. In this Territory there are at present about 70 cases. It is hoped that it will soon be found possible to provide means for the erection and maintenance of a small Leper Home in which sufferers from this disease will be given the new 'Alepol treatment (intravenous hydnocarpate injections) which has been attended by remarkably beneficial results elsewhere. The Medical Officers of the Territory are also giving their attention to the apparently accidental discovery recently made in India that the recognised treatment of kala-azar has a beneficial effect not only on that disease but also on leprosy. As both diseases occur in this Territory, there seems to be a field for investigation of which the Medical Officers will readily avail themselves.

Reference has been made in Section I to the temporary military hospital maintained at Weihaiwei during the summer for the benefit of the officers and men of the Shanghai Defence Force. The hospital contained 50 beds. Four deaths occurred among the British troops, the causes being typhoid, heatstroke, drowning, and kidney disease.

* Opened in 1918. See Annual Report for that year (No. 999 in the series).

A much greater number of men-of-war were stationed at Weihaiwei during the summer months than in former years, owing to the presence in Far Eastern waters of ships of the First Cruiser and other squadrons in addition to the China fleet. Very few cases of sickness were reported by the naval medical authorities; and the few cases of dysentery (7), and malaria (5), which came under treatment all originated in southern ports.

A scheme is at present under consideration for the establishment of an improved water supply for Port Edward. If this can be carried out it will remove one of the most serious of existing menaces to the health of the community—the danger of contamination from water drawn by buckets or tins from shallow wells, the only present source of supply.

(B) Meteorological.

The year was exceptionally dry, only 19.83 inches of rain falling, as compared with 37.12 inches in 1926. The average for the previous 20 years was 27 inches. The wettest year during that period was 1914 with 47.7 inches, the driest 1918 with 15.5 inches. No rain fell on 299 days of the year under review.

The highest shade temperature recorded was 101° F. in July. This constitutes a record for Weihaiwei since observations began to be taken. The maximum reading in former years was 99°, in 1922. The summer of 1927 was, indeed, an exceptionally hot one throughout North China. In Peking the shade temperature is said to have reached 114°. The lowest temperature recorded in Weihaiwei during 1927 was 8° F. in January. The lowest in the history of the Territory is 1° in 1913.

The highest barometer reading was 30.74 in November and the lowest 29.47 in April, the monthly range varying from 1.24 in November to 0.47 in June.

(C) Population.

A census of the population has been twice taken during the 29 years of British administration, namely, in 1911 and 1921. In the former year the population was found to number 147,177; in the latter it had risen to 154,416. Since 1921 there has been a somewhat rapid development of the Territory and a considerable further increase of population has taken place—an increase which must be partly ascribed to the influx of refugees and others who have found the tranquillity and orderly administration of Weihaiwei preferable to the unrest, banditry, over-taxation and general misgovernment which have prevailed in the province of Shantung during the past decade. According to a rough estimate, the present population of the Territory is about 175,000. This includes the foreign residents who during the winter months (when the foreign

population is reduced to a minimum) number barely one hundred. The following table shows the exact number of foreign residents in Weihaiwei (irrespective of the small British military and naval forces) at the end of 1927, together with their respective nationalities.

	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
British	44	28	72
French	1	1	2
Italian	1	3	4
Canadian	1	—	1
Belgian	1	2	3
German	2	2	4
Spanish	—	1	1
Hungarian	—	1	1
Korean	5	8	13
Totals	55	46	101

It should be mentioned that the Canadian and non-British European members of the community (except Germans) are attached to the Roman Catholic Mission and Convent.

It may be observed that Weihaiwei, with an area of less than 300 square miles, has a population which is not far short of that of Tasmania (over 26,000 square miles) and nearly two-thirds that of British Guiana, a Colony which is as large as the United Kingdom. The latter Colony has less than 4 persons to the square mile, Canada and Australia about 2; whereas Weihaiwei with 620 inhabitants to the square mile is not very far behind England and Wales with their 650. For an agricultural district Weihaiwei has a population which in Europe would be regarded as astonishingly high and the figure is all the more striking when it is remembered that a considerable part of the Territory consists of uninhabited and uncultivated hill-lands and sandy wastes. It was estimated by the Census Officer in 1921 that not more than two-fifths of the Territory is arable; nevertheless, as he pointed out, the acre-yield is extraordinary. This, together with the frugality of the people and the simplicity of their lives, accounts for the land being able to support so dense a population.

IX.—EDUCATION.

Hampered by lack of funds, the achievements of the British administration in the sphere of education have been insignificant. There is no Educational Department, and Government inspection is limited to the exercise of a slight supervision over the only school which owes its existence to Government initiative. This is the Huang Jên School for boys at Port Edward, which is maintained by Government at a cost of about \$3,600 a year and provides a free education for nearly 200 day pupils.

There are several other schools in Port Edward which were founded and are maintained by various missionary bodies. These are the Anglican Mission School for boys, with about 80 pupils, of whom 37 are boarders; St. Joseph's Catholic School for boys, with 264 pupils, of whom 30 are boarders; the Convent School for girls, under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Mission, with about 60 day pupils; and the Port Edward School for girls conducted by a group of Protestant missionaries. None of these schools receives financial or other assistance from the Government.

Three schools have been founded and are maintained by local merchants and other Chinese residents. One of these is a small school on the Island, with about 50 pupils. Another is the Shu Tê school for girls, which was originally established in connection with an anti-footbinding movement. The third is a more ambitious and promising institution than any of those already mentioned—namely the Ch'i Tung Middle School for boys. This school, which is at present attended by about 100 students and is staffed by Chinese University graduates, derives part of its maintenance fund from a small voluntary surtax on the land-tax, but is mainly dependent on public subscription. It is provided by Government with free quarters or a cash payment in lieu of quarters, and it is hoped that the progress of the school will justify the Government in granting it a small annual subsidy. The claims of this school to a grant or subsidy from the British China Indemnity Fund were brought to the notice of Lord Willingdon's Indemnity Delegation which visited China in 1926, and the school is included in the list of possible beneficiaries which appears in the Delegation's Report. The Appendix to the Report contains the following reference to the school. "As the British Government has announced its intention of returning Weihaiwei to China, and rendition is likely to take place in the near future, there is a strong feeling among the Chinese residents that Great Britain's friendly act of renunciation should be commemorated in some permanent manner, and that no more suitable form of commemoration could be devised than the endowment of this school out of funds which are also being relinquished by Great Britain in favour of China. Both the rendition of the Territory and the return of the balance of the Indemnity are acts which Great Britain has voluntarily undertaken to carry out in order to show her good will to China, and it would be highly satisfactory if these two voluntary acts of renunciation could be linked together in some such striking and appropriate manner as that suggested." It is hoped that when the time comes to allocate the Indemnity funds the claims of this school in particular, or of Weihaiwei educational interests in general, will not be overlooked.

A large number of the villages of the leased Territory support small old-fashioned schools of their own, but these schools are

attended only by a small fraction of the children of school age. The great majority of the boys and girls of Weihaiwei grow up without any education at all. Those inhabitants of the Territory who can read and write were returned in the 1921 Census as 13,966, of whom only 227 were females. 34 per cent. of the males of school age were said to be undergoing an education of some kind, but only a small proportion of the pupils remain at school long enough to derive much permanent benefit from such education as the village teachers are capable of imparting.

The important question of education is one to which the Government of the leased Territory, with slender financial resources and an inadequate administrative staff, has hitherto devoted insufficient attention. It is hoped that if the rendition of the Territory does not take place in the immediate future, means may be found to remedy this defect in the British administration of the Territory.

The Weihaiwei School for boys of European race, which flourished for many years, was closed in 1925. No educational institution for children of European parentage now exists in the Territory. In view of the excellence of the climate and the well-known healthiness of the Territory, this fact is to be deplored.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

Under the Weihaiwei Order in Council of 1901, provision was made for the establishment of a Land Commission to deal with questions relating to the titles, tenures, occupancy and assessment of lands in the leased Territory. Very little has been done, however, to carry out the duties assigned to the Commission, and the only decisions arrived at with reference to the delimitation and ownership of lands have been based on ordinary judgments of the Court following on land disputes between private individuals or between the Government on one side and private individuals or village communities on the other.

The work of a Land Commission could hardly be carried to a successful conclusion without a cadastral survey of the Territory, the cost of which has hitherto been regarded as prohibitive. An aerial survey would doubtless be feasible and not very costly, and if circumstances necessitate a protracted postponement of the rendition of the Territory to China, such a survey may perhaps be considered desirable.

The land-tax levied by the Government is based on the very rough-and-ready system of assessment which was in vogue before the British occupation began. No attempt has been made—or could be made in the absence of a survey—to ensure that each cultivated plot of land pays its proper tax. In practice, land-tax in Weihaiwei is practically a village assessment, and the village

headman is held responsible for paying the total amount due from the community which he represents. The tax is paid willingly and without any expense of collection, for Chinese farmers are in the habit of regarding the payment of land-tax as one of their best and safest proofs of land-ownership; though they would be hard put to it, in most cases, to show that each plot of land which they cultivate pays neither less nor more than the correct amount. Undoubtedly, a survey would reveal the fact that a great deal of cultivated land paid no tax at all; on the other hand there are many persons who continue to pay land-tax on property which has long passed out of their hands. In China there is very little exactitude about the assessment and levy of taxes, and innumerable land transfers are accompanied or followed by disputes about land-tax liabilities which frequently lead to troublesome lawsuits and to the bewilderment of the unlucky Magistrate (Chinese or British) before whom they come for settlement.

In the early days of the British occupation it was believed that the Territory possessed considerable mineral wealth, and numerous prospecting licences were taken out. The results, however, were disappointing. The subject is dealt with in Section III (E).

The increasing prosperity of the port is reflected in the rapid increase of urban land-values. In 1902, land on the outskirts of Port Edward was sold for \$20 a *mu* (one-sixth of an acre). In 1921 it was assessed at \$200 to \$800 a *mu*.^{*} At present, such land changes hands at \$1,300, and for building-sites with a sea frontage there is keen competition among buyers at even higher prices.

XI.—LABOUR.

The supply of skilled and unskilled labour in Weihaiwei is abundant and still comparatively cheap. But there is a tendency for all wages to increase owing to the rising price of food-stuffs, mainly the result of chaotic political conditions and misgovernment in Shantung. A desire for a higher standard of living is also becoming apparent, and foreign goods which till recently were regarded by the labouring classes as unattainable luxuries are being gradually added to their list of necessities.

There are no local labour unions or organisations, and no difficulties have hitherto arisen through strikes. The Territory has been visited from time to time by unwelcome guests in the shape of communist agents—Koreans disguised as Chinese and others—but the seed scattered by these people has hitherto fallen on stony ground. Weihaiwei is a most unpromising field for the dissemination of communistic ideas. The population consists very largely of small peasant proprietors who are strongly attached

^{*} See Annual Report for 1921, pp. 4 and 14 (No. 1118 in the series).

to their little holdings, which in innumerable cases they have inherited from their remote ancestors. There is no primogeniture and all the males of a family have a right to participate in the ancestral property. A large proportion of the people inhabit villages of one surname only, and their ancestral temples and clan-lands till the same fields that were owned by their forefathers in the Ming, Yuan or even the Sung dynasties. Families that have graveyards contain evidence that they occupy the same district authentic pedigrees going back for five hundred years or more are very common; and though they are poor in material wealth, according to Western standards, their family pride, their intense conservatism and their attachment to the ethical and social traditions and teachings of their ancestors constitute a very strong bulwark against innovation.

In some respects this bulwark is an impediment to progress. In the matter of female footbinding, for example, the British administration has tried by every means short of force to induce the people to abandon this thoroughly bad and cruel custom; but proclamations and exhortations have had very little effect except in the case of a limited number of schoolgirls in Port Edward who have been allowed by their parents to unbind their feet as the only alternative to being debarred from the benefits of a good and cheap education. It is indeed not surprising that the British Government has not been successful in abolishing the practice of footbinding, seeing that even the edicts of the Manchu emperors, issued at a time when the power and prestige of the late dynasty was at its height, completely failed to exterminate this evil custom. Nevertheless, educated Chinese opinion is now growing more and more opposed to it, and it is also denounced and discouraged by the Nationalist leaders, notably by General Fêng Yü-hsiang, so there is good reason to hope that the practice will become extinct within a reasonable period.

This matter has a direct bearing on labour questions in China, for the beginnings of industrialism are causing an ever-increasing number of Chinese girls and women to look for employment in factories; and women who have to walk considerable distances every day to their places of employment inevitably feel the handicap of bound feet much more severely than did their mothers, who rarely left the immediate neighbourhood of their homes on foot and were indeed sternly discouraged from doing so by the unwritten laws of womanly propriety. Even in Weihaiwei, which can hardly be described as an important industrial centre, hundreds of women are now employed in shops and small factories. Lace-making, sericulture, embroidery, and the hair-net industry occupy the time of a large proportion of these women. Lace-making owes its establishment in Weihaiwei to the initiative of the Roman

Catholic nuns, but large numbers of the girls trained in the Convent now work for Chinese employers. Women are also employed in certain branches of the groundnut industry and in stocking factories. In unskilled labour women are not very prominent, though they are employed in the lighter tasks—such as grinding flour—connected with agriculture; but the sedentary and perhaps uninteresting occupation of stone-breaking tends to be a feminine business in Weihaiwei, for the persons who are employed by the Government road contractor in providing him with road-metal are almost exclusively village women and young girls.

In the last Census Report (1921) it was stated that two-thirds of the males over nine years of age were employed on the land. That may be taken as approximately true to-day, and it may be added that the land on which they work is generally land of which they themselves are actual or prospective owners or in which they have an interest (perhaps owing to clan-ties) which is more than that of mere wage-earners.

According to the same Report, $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of males over nine are employed in mercantile pursuits and shopkeeping; 1 per cent. in textile trades; 4 per cent. in the conveyance of goods and persons; and $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in the building trade. At present the percentage of males employed in building may be slightly larger than $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., for Port Edward is expanding rapidly and builders are kept very busy. It should be observed, however, that nearly all the men employed in building are temporarily recruited from the villages and are farmers before they are builders. The villagers of Weihaiwei are well able to combine the two occupations, for they are accustomed to build and repair their own houses as well as to till their own fields.

In the Census Report only 933 persons were shown in the occupational returns as "Coolies." But it was pointed out that very often as many as 1,500 men may be seen discharging a single collier. These men are all farmers, and when they have finished their work of unloading ships they, like the house-builders, return to the little plots of land which they regard as their permanent source of livelihood.

XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

The following notes on the administration of the Territory under British rule may be of interest.

The Anglo-Chinese Convention under which the Territory was leased to Great Britain was signed on 1st July, 1898. A provisional administration was established under a British naval officer appointed by and responsible to the Naval Commander-in-chief on the China Station. In 1899 the administration was transferred to the War Office and in 1900 to the Colonial Office. Under

the Colonial Office the Territory has been administered by a Commissioner whose position and authority are similar to those of Governors of Crown Colonies and who holds his commission direct from His Majesty the King.

The following are the names of the officers by whom the Territory has been administered since the beginning of the British occupation :—

1st July, 1898, to 9th August, 1899 : Commander Gaunt, R.N., now Admiral Sir E. F. A. Gaunt, K.C.B.

10th August, 1899, to 10th December, 1901 : Colonel Dorward, R.E., now Major-General Sir Arthur Dorward, K.C.B. (From 1st January, 1900, the Territory was placed under the control of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, who retained Colonel Dorward's services and appointed him first civil Commissioner under a Royal Commission.)

11th December, 1901, to 2nd May, 1902 : Acting Commissioner, Major Cowan, R.E.

3rd May, 1902, to 22nd April, 1921 : Commissioner Mr. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C.M.G., formerly Colonial Secretary of Hong Kong, now Sir J. H. Stewart Lockhart, K.C.M.G., LL.D.

23rd April, 1921, to 3rd November, 1923 : Officer Administering the Government : Mr. A. P. Blunt, C.M.G.

4th November, 1923, to 29th March, 1927 : Officer Administering the Government : Mr. W. Russell Brown.

1st April, 1927 : Commissioner Mr. R. F. Johnston, C.B.E.

Next year (1928) will see the completion of thirty years of the British occupation of Weihaiwei.

R. F. JOHNSTON.

Commissioner.

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An historical event of importance in the development of the Empire's Agriculture took place towards the close of 1927. The foundations were, it is believed, then laid for the ultimate creation of a real and effective British agricultural commonwealth. The occasion was the Imperial Agricultural Research Conference held in Great Britain in October and November, 1927, which was attended by delegates of high standing from all countries in the Empire.

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TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

Annual General Report for 1927.

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PREFATORY NOTE.

History and Geography.

The Turks and Caicos Islands lie between 21° and 22° N. latitude and 71° and 72° 50' W. longitude, at the south-east end of the Bahama Islands. They lie about 90 miles to the north of the Dominican Republic, about 720 miles to the south-west of Bermuda, and about 450 miles to the north-east of Jamaica.

They consist of two groups of islands, separated by a deep-water channel about 22 miles wide, known as the Turks Island passage. The Turks Islands lie to the east of the passage and the Caicos Islands to the west. The area of these Islands is estimated to be about 166 square miles, but no thorough survey of the group has ever been made.

The Turks Islands consist of two inhabited islands, Grand Turk and Salt Cay, four uninhabited islands, and a large number of rocks. A three-pointed bank or reef surrounds the group.

The Caicos Islands, which lie to the west of the channel, surround the Caicos Bank, a triangular shoal 58 miles long on its northern side and 56 miles long on its eastern and western sides, respectively. The northern and eastern sides of the bank are

bounded by a chain of islands separated from each other by narrow passages, while the western edge is fringed by a series of reefs and rocks. The principal islands of the Caicos group are South Caicos, East Caicos, Middle Caicos, North Caicos, Providenciales Island, and West Caicos.

The entire group known as the Turks and Caicos Islands extends for a distance of 75 miles from east to west and 50 miles from north to south, and constitutes part of the long chain of low islands and banks extending from off the Florida coast to the Navidad Bank, lying north of the east end of the Dominican Republic.

It is said that the Turks Islands derived their name from a species of cactus found there by the early settlers, the scarlet head of which resembled a Turkish fez. These Islands were discovered in 1512 by Juan Ponce de Leon while on a voyage from Puerto Rico. They remained uninhabited until the year 1678, when a party of Bermudians arrived and established the salt raking industry. From that date onwards parties of Bermudians used to resort annually to the Turks Islands to rake salt, arriving about the month of March and returning to Bermuda about November, when the salt raking season was over. The Bermudians were expelled by the Spaniards in 1710, but soon returned and continued the salt industry, with occasional interruption by attacks by the Spaniards. Several attempts to obtain possession of the Islands were also made by the French. In the year 1766 an agent, Mr. Andrew Symmer, was appointed "to reside there, and, by his residence on the spot, to insure the right of the Island to His Majesty." By an Order in Council in 1781 regulations were approved for the management of the salinas (salt ponds) and for the preservation of order amongst the inhabitants. In 1799 the Turks and Caicos Islands were placed under the Bahamas Government, and so they remained until 1848, when, in answer to a petition from the inhabitants, a separate charter was granted. Under this charter the Islands had an elective Legislative Council and a President administering the government, but this system was found to be too expensive, and in 1873 the inhabitants forwarded a petition praying for the abrogation of the charter. The Islands were then annexed to Jamaica, and still remain one of its dependencies.

The white population of these Islands, numbering about 200, is composed almost entirely of the descendants of the Bermudians, while it is understood that the coloured people are mainly the descendants of the slaves imported by the early settlers.

From time to time these Islands have been visited by hurricanes which caused great destruction of property. Two hurricanes passed over these Islands in 1926, on 24th July and 16th September, respectively, and did great damage. The second one was the most disastrous, as regards damage to property, in the history of the Dependency.

The only language spoken in this Dependency is English. The currency consists of British gold and silver coins and currency notes issued by the local Government. Only the standard Imperial weights and measures are in use.

The climate of these Islands may be classed as good. Although the summer months are very hot, the heat is generally tempered by the trade winds. The weather in the winter-time is generally pleasant. The temperature ranges from about 60° minimum to about 93° maximum.

The government is administered by a Commissioner as chief executive officer, who is also Judge of the Supreme Court. By Jamaica Law No. 6 of 1926, which came into operation on the 1st August, 1926, the Legislature consists of a Legislative Board comprising the Commissioner, who by virtue of his office is President, and seven other persons, three of whom are holders of offices under the Crown, appointed by the Governor of Jamaica. Taxation and expenditure and all local matters are regulated by this Board. The governor of Jamaica has a supervising power over the local Government, and his assent to the ordinances of the Legislative Board is necessary. Laws passed by the Legislative Council of Jamaica which are, in express terms, made applicable to the Turks and Caicos Islands take effect there.

The following is a general description of the principal islands :—

Grand Turk.

Grand Turk is the capital of the Dependency. It lies on the eastern side of the Turks Island passage, and is approximately 7 miles long and 1½ miles wide. It has a population of about 1,500. The only settlement on Grand Turk is Cockburn Town, on the western side of the island. The town contains the public buildings, several stores, a public library, four churches, and Masonic and other lodges. The public hospital is at the north end of the town, and the Commissioner's residence is situated a few miles south of the town. The cable station is near Government House at the south-west end of the island, and the radio-telegraph station is situated in the centre of the town. Grand Turk is a port of entry. Vessels anchor about 500 yards from the shore, and cargoes are conveyed between ship and shore by lighters. There is a lighthouse at the north-east end of the island. The light can be seen 15 miles off in clear weather. There is a range of low hills on the eastern side of the island, the greatest elevation being about 75 feet. The island is covered with low, scrubby vegetation. The principal industry is the production and export of salt extracted from sea-water, for which there is a demand in the United States and Canada for meat-packing and fish-curing purposes. The salt ponds cover about 230 acres. Fruit, vegetables, and cattle are imported from Santo Domingo and Haiti by small sailing vessels.

Salt Cay.

Salt Cay, which lies about 7 miles to the south-west of Grand Turk, is the only other inhabited island of the Turks Islands group. Its area is about 4 square miles. It is a barren island, almost devoid of vegetation, and the population, about 360, depend almost entirely on the salt ponds, 120 acres in extent, for their living.

South Caicos.

This island is situated at the south-east end of the Caicos Islands and it is the only island of that group in which the salt industry is carried on. The area is about 8 square miles and the salt ponds (including reservoirs) cover about 400 acres. The population of South Caicos is about 630. The Government is represented by a District Commissioner, who resides at Cockburn Harbour (commonly called East Harbour).

East Caicos.

This island, the north-eastern of the Caicos group, was formerly devoted to the cultivation of sisal. The industry was abandoned in 1919, and the island is now uninhabited.

Middle Caicos.

Separated from East Caicos by a narrow passage lies Middle Caicos or, as it is sometimes called, Grand Caicos. This island, the largest of the Caicos group, is 25 miles long and 12 miles wide. On it are situated the villages of Lorimers, Bombarra, and Conch Bar, with a total population of about 780. The inhabitants are engaged in agriculture, including cotton growing.

North Caicos.

To the north-west of Middle Caicos lies North Caicos, an island about 12 miles long, with fertile soil. The principal settlements are Kew and Bottle Creek. The population of this island is about 1,400, mostly engaged in agriculture and fishing.

Parrot Cay, Dellis Cay, and others.

Lying to the west of North Caicos are several small cays, the principal ones being Parrot Cay and Dellis Cay. The cultivation of cotton on Parrot Cay was abandoned in 1925.

Providenciales, or Blue Hills.

Continuing the chain of islands, which in the form of a semi-circle encloses the eastern and western sides of the Caicos Bank, and to the westward of the islands just mentioned, is the island of Providenciales, or Blue Hills, one of the largest of the Caicos group. This island is 17 miles long by 12 miles wide, and contains a population of about 730. The principal settlements are Blue Hills, about the middle of the north shore; Five Cays, to the

south-east; and The Bight, on the northern shore. On this island sponge fishing is carried on.

West Caicos.

West Caicos, also known as Belle Isle, is situated about 12 miles to the south-west of Providenciales. This island is about 8 miles long and 2 miles wide. In the middle of the island is Lake Catherine, about 2 miles long. A large amount of money was spent in an attempt to develop the resources of this island. The venture was abandoned and the island is now uninhabited.

1.—GENERAL.

During the year 1927 there was no event of outstanding importance.

The people, with the assistance of the Hurricane Relief Administration, continued their efforts to repair the damage to their houses, boats, etc., done by the hurricane of the previous year.

The reconstruction of the public works, damaged by the hurricanes, continued throughout the year. The expenditure involved nearly exhausted the reserve funds of the Dependency. These works provided employment to many who, in consequence of the depression in the salt industry, would otherwise have been unemployed.

On the 20th of March the Hon. Richard Nosworthy, C.M.G., arrived from Jamaica, in H.M.S. "Wistaria," to enquire into the administration of the hurricane relief measures. The result of his investigation was a verdict entirely in favour of the administration.

2.—FINANCE.

The following table shows the revenue and expenditure during the last 5 years :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Revenue.</i>		<i>Expenditure.</i>	
	£		£	
1923	...	11,751	...	10,950
1924	...	9,693	...	12,186
1925	...	10,459	...	11,176
1926	...	9,734	...	14,055
1927	...	11,522	...	14,568

The expenditure in 1927 exceeded the revenue by £3,046. This excess was mainly due to the extraordinary expenditure on repairing the damage by the hurricanes of 1926 to public properties.

The royalty on salt exported amounted to £1,140; being about one-half of the usual amount received annually.

The Customs tariff was revised in May, 1927, with the object of obtaining additional revenue. The Customs import duties collected during the year amounted to £5,146; being about 45 per cent. of the total revenue.

The balance sheet at the 31st December, 1927, showed a surplus of assets over liabilities of £1,649, as against £4,695, the surplus at the end of the previous year.

The Dependency has no public debt, and direct taxation is very light.

The Government paper currency in circulation amounted to £5,500. A considerable number of British Treasury notes, Bank of England notes, and United States currency notes were also in circulation.

The Government Savings Bank had 958 accounts in operation, with £21,519 on deposit at the end of the year. The investments amounted to £21,321. There are no private banks doing business in these Islands.

The Post Office money-order business has increased considerably. The value of the orders issued and paid in 1927 amounted to £17,092, as against £1,201 in 1922.

3.—PRODUCTION.

SALT.

The principal industry in this Dependency is the production of salt from sea-water, by solar evaporation, and salt is the principal product exported. It is shipped to Canada and the United States and used there for fish curing and meat packing. The demand for it in 1927 was very slack, with the result that the quantity exported during that year was only about one-half of the average amount exported annually during the previous ten years. Two grades are exported—coarse and fishery (ground). The following table shows the destination, quantity and value of the shipments in 1927 :—

	<i>Quantity.</i> <i>Bushels.</i>	<i>Value.</i> £
Canada	420,529	11,590
United States	281,517	5,575
St. Pierre et Miquelon ...	23,030	687
Newfoundland	20,213	562
Jamaica	33,085	518
Haiti	3,457	83
	<hr/> 781,831 <hr/>	<hr/> £19,015 <hr/>

SPONGES.

There was an increase in the trade in sponges. 26,869 lb., valued at £3,004, were exported in 1927, of which 22,472 lb., valued at £2,520, were shipped to the United States of America.

CONCHS.

There was a great falling-off in the quantity of conchs exported in 1927. Only 587,550, valued at £588, were shipped, as against

1,522,700 exported in the previous year. This decline was, no doubt, principally due to the destruction by the hurricanes of 1926 of a large number of fishing-boats in the Caicos Islands. This shell-fish is valued at £1 per thousand. The entire quantity was shipped to Haiti where there is a demand for it by the natives.

CONCH SHELLS.

372 barrels of conch shells, valued at £52, were exported during the year.

TURTLE SHELL.

There was a decrease in the trade in turtle shell as compared with the previous year. The quantity exported in 1927 was only 375 lb., valued at £383. The great loss of small craft, mentioned above, no doubt injuriously affected the turtle-fishing industry.

SHARK PRODUCE.

There was also a decline in the shark-fishing business as compared with the previous year. Only 248 skins, 228 fins, and 190 gallons of oil, valued at £48, £15, and £12, respectively, were exported during 1927. The entire output was shipped to the United States.

COTTON.

No cotton or cotton seed was exported in 1927, the stocks on hand being held for a rise in the market price. The hurricanes did great damage to the cotton fields and very little cotton was picked during the year under review.

SISAL.

16,600 lb. of sisal, valued at £109, were exported in 1927, as against 1,000 lb., valued at £6, shipped in 1926.

MINOR PRODUCE.

Small quantities of fish (salted), hides, poultry, and ground produce were exported during the year.

The following table shows the value of the principal items of domestic produce exported during the last 5 years :—

	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927
	£	£	£	£	£
Salt	30,271	25,630	32,854	30,111	19,015
Sponges	1,436	1,647	2,408	1,937	3,004
Conchs... ..	1,563	1,217	1,393	1,523	588
Turtle Shell	486	50	162	743	383
Shark Products	—	—	20	198	75
Cotton and Cotton-seed	641	904	566	290	—
Sisal	2,168	169	648	6	109

Almost all of the above exports, except salt, were the produce of the Caicos Islands.

4.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

Trade.

The value of the trade of the Dependency for the last 5 years was as follows :—

		1923	1924	1925	1926	1927
		£	£	£	£	£
Imports	...	46,560	43,253	41,570	48,850	47,693
Exports	...	37,455	31,495	39,062	35,936	24,063
Total	...	84,015	74,748	80,632	84,786	71,756

Imports.

The next table shows the direction of trade, as regards imports, during the last 5 years :—

		<i>United Kingdom.</i>	<i>British Dominions.</i>	<i>Foreign Countries.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
		£	£	£	£
1923	...	3,577	2,960	40,023	46,560
1924	...	4,282	3,230	35,741	43,253
1925	...	4,592	3,520	33,458	41,570
1926	...	6,791	6,742	35,317	48,850
1927	...	5,447	6,619	35,627	47,693

The direction of the import trade for 1927 is shown in the following table :—

					£
United Kingdom	...	...	...	...	5,447
Canada	...	...	...	...	3,868
Jamaica	...	...	...	...	2,226
Santo Domingo	...	...	...	...	1,489
United States of America	...	...	...	...	32,885
Other countries	...	...	...	...	1,778
					<u>£47,693</u>

The following is a classified summary of the imports for the year :—

					£
Food, drink, and tobacco	...	...	...	...	24,889
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	...	...	...	...	14
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured	...	...	...	...	19,622
Miscellaneous and unclassified	...	...	...	...	3,168
					<u>£47,693</u>

The principal articles imported during 1927 were as follows :—

<i>Article.</i>	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i> £
Cotton goods	—	3,711
Wood, lumber	ft. 486,850	3,629
Flour	bus. 2,146	3,235
Spirits	gal. 6,285	2,686
Sugar	lb. 209,436	1,664
Lard	lb. 67,348	1,592
Hominy and Meal Corn	bus. 1,186	1,469
Beef and Pork (salted)... ..	lb. 52,819	1,372
Machinery	—	1,334
Oils	gal. 18,379	1,220
Milk (condensed)	cans 1,031	1,211
Butter	lb. 13,351	992
Rice	lb. 159,707	860
Boots and Shoes... ..	—	835
Haberdashery	—	805
Bacon, Hams, &c.	lb. 16,688	792
Soap (common)	lb. 45,315	598
Paper and Stationery	—	570
Cigarettes	no. 906,200	548

Exports.

The following table shows the direction of the export trade during the last 5 years :—

	<i>United Kingdom.</i>	<i>British Dominions.</i>	<i>Foreign Countries.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1923	750	14,843	21,862	37,455
1924	131	13,160	18,204	31,495
1925	485	18,412	20,165	39,062
1926	1,018	20,550	14,368	35,936
1927	218	13,649	10,196	24,063

The destination of the exports is shown in the next table :—

	£
United Kingdom	218
Canada	11,837
United States	8,349
Bahamas	732
Haiti	712
St. Pierre et Miquelon	687
Newfoundland	562
Jamaica	518
Santo Domingo	424
Other countries	24
	<hr/>
	£24,063

The value of the produce of the Dependency exported in 1927 was £23,332 and the value of the re-exports was £731. 80 per cent. of the total exports consisted of salt.

The large decline in the shipments of salt during the year was, as already mentioned above under the head "Production," due to the small demand for that commodity in the Canadian and American markets in 1927.

5.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Shipping.

There are three ports of entry in the Dependency; namely, Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour, and Salt Cay. Each port has an open roadstead, and ships anchor in from 4 to 7 fathoms of water about one-quarter of a mile from the shore.

The number of vessels that entered at the several ports during the year 1927 was as follows:—

		<i>British.</i>	<i>Foreign.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Steamships	... ..	2	105	107
Sailing vessels	... ..	123	20	143
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		125	125	250
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The net tonnage of the sailing ships amounted to 16,747, and of the steamships to 113,575.

The falling-off in the amount of tonnage of sailing ships was in consequence of the reduced quantity of salt exported as compared with previous years.

The ships of the Clyde Steamship Company of New York called at Grand Turk every three weeks on their way from Santo Domingo to New York.

A steamer of the Columbus Line, Inc., sailing from New York *en route* to Santo Domingo, called at Grand Turk every three or four weeks to land cargo.

Steamers of the Royal Netherlands West India Mail, on the way from New York to South American ports, called at Grand Turk for stevedores about three times a month, and called again, on the return voyage, to land them.

Railways.

There are no railways or tramways in this Dependency.

Roads.

The streets and roads in the principal settlements were kept in fairly good condition for wheeled traffic. A few motor cars and trucks are in use. The roads in the Caicos Islands are only "bush paths" and are very rough.

Postal.

The local mails were carried between the several islands by small sailing craft engaged in local trade.

Mails to and from the United Kingdom and other parts of the world were despatched and received via New York by the steamers referred to above.

Mails were also sent to Jamaica by steamers of the Elders and Fyffes line, which called occasionally at Grand Turk to land passengers from England, and also by small sailing vessel whenever an opportunity presented itself.

The Post Office dealt with about 91,000 postal articles during the year under review.

Cables.

The Dependency is connected by cable with Bermuda, Jamaica, and Barbados.

The Direct West India Cable Company supplies a news bulletin daily, for which the Government pays a yearly subsidy of £120.

Wireless.

The Government radio-telegraph and telephone system connecting Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour, and Salt Cay, and also giving service with ships at sea, was demolished by the hurricane of 1926. The system was reconstructed, and the service re-established in September, 1927, and continued in satisfactory operation to the end of the year.

Telephones.

The public telephone system at Grand Turk was also demolished by the hurricane. It was entirely reconstructed and the service was re-established in the early part of the year under review. It provides for 60 connections.

6.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice.

The law in force in the Dependency consists of the Common Law of England as it existed at the time of the settlement, certain applied Acts of the Imperial Parliament, and the Ordinances passed by the local Legislature. The Supreme Court is presided over by a Judge, who also holds the post of Commissioner of the Dependency. The Supreme Court of Judicature of Jamaica has jurisdiction in matrimonial and divorce causes, and is constituted a Court of Appeal from the Supreme Court of the Dependency. There is a Stipendiary Magistrate, resident at Grand Turk, the capital, where he holds court at least once a week. He pays periodical visits to Cockburn Harbour, Salt Cay, and the Caicos Islands for the purpose of holding court at those settlements.

Police.

There is a very small Police Force. It consists of one sergeant, one corporal, one lance-corporal, three police constables, and eight district constables. The Magistrate acts as Inspector and the Assistant Treasurer performs the duty of Sub-Inspector. A district constable is stationed at each of the eight principal settlements in the Caicos Islands.

Prisons.

There is a central prison at Grand Turk, to which all prisoners from the out-islands are committed. The total number of persons committed to prison in 1927 was 31, of which 24 were men, 4 women, and 3 juveniles. There is complete separation between the males and females. There is a Prison Board which meets once a month to inspect and supervise the prison. There is no Chaplain, but clergymen make occasional visits to the prison. The male prisoners are mainly employed on road repair work.

Criminal Statistics.

The number of persons dealt with in the summary courts for crimes and offences was 170; 117 being males and 53 females. The number convicted was 135.

7.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The Public Works Department was mainly employed during the year 1927 in repairing the damage by the hurricane of 1926 to the public buildings; the roads, streets, and bridges; the shipping jetties, wharves, and sea-walls; and the telephone and radio-telegraph systems.

8.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

Vital Statistics.

The population of the Turks and Caicos Islands, according to the last census (1921), was 5,612. About 95 per cent. of the people are of African descent.

During the year 1927, 149 births were registered, giving a birth-rate of 26.9 per 1,000, and 123 deaths were recorded, the death-rate being 22.3 per 1,000. Thirty-nine marriages were registered. The above rates are based on the population of 1921. The number of deaths of children under one year of age was 42.

Public Health.

In his Report for 1927 the Government Medical Officer stated that the general health of the Islands was very fair. The following paragraphs are extracted from his report :—

Influenza : During the first months of the year there were a number of cases of influenza of a comparatively mild form, but there were no fatalities directly attributable to this disease.

Malaria : There were some cases of malaria in a mild form, but this Island seems to be comparatively free from the anopheles mosquito, therefore most cases are contracted in the other islands and come here for treatment.

Pellagra : There were very few cases of pellagra during the year. In former years during the drought, there were numerous cases. Therefore I am inclined to conclude that having only a few cases this year is due to the fact that fresh fruits

and vegetables have been more plentiful on account of the beneficial rains we have had, thus giving the inhabitants a greater variety of food.

Children's Diseases : For the first time in many years, an epidemic of whooping-cough made its appearance with a few fatalities among the very young children. There were also several cases of measles and chicken-pox, also a number of cases of bowel trouble.

Venereal Diseases : There have been only a few cases of this kind."

Hospitals.

Two small hospitals are maintained by the Government under the direction and supervision of the medical officers. One at Grand Turk, with 8 beds, and one at Cockburn Harbour, having 4 beds.

9.—EDUCATION.

The education system of the Dependency is under the direction of the Board of Education, nominated by the Commissioner, who is chairman.

Primary Education.

Primary education is compulsory in the three principal settlements of the Dependency, namely, Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour, and Salt Cay, for children between the ages of six and thirteen years, and is provided free by the Government. The sum of £840 is granted annually to the Board of Education for the maintenance of the primary schools throughout the Dependency and for other educational purposes. There were 10 Government elementary schools. The number of scholars whose names were enrolled was 768, and the average attendance 568. There were also 7 private elementary schools, under the control of the Board, with an attendance of 91. While the average attendance appears to be small, it should be remembered that the settlements in the Caicos are scattered and many children are not within reach of a school. Many who do attend have to walk long distances in great heat and along bad roads to get to their schools. Owing to the small salaries offered and the lack of proper training facilities, there is great difficulty in obtaining efficient teachers for the schools and very few of those employed as such can be regarded as competent. The Board of Education has under consideration the question of making proper provision for the training of suitable young men and women to become teachers in the schools and it now has a candidate undergoing a course of training at the Mico College in Jamaica.

Secondary Education.

There is a secondary school at Grand Turk, controlled by a board of management appointed by the Commissioner. There were 36 pupils on the roll in 1927. The average attendance was 32.

This school receives from the Government a free grant-in-aid of £150 a year. The master of the secondary school acts as Inspector of Schools. A centre for the Cambridge University Local Examinations was established at Grand Turk in 1924, and local examinations have since been held annually in December.

10.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

As already mentioned above, these Islands have never been completely surveyed. Most of the land is of very poor quality, being very rocky and barren, and only small portions here and there are fit for agriculture. Selected parcels of Crown land, when applied for, are sold at 2s. per acre, and leased at 4d. per acre. Town lots, when applied for, are sold at public auction, with an upset price. The private lands generally are of little value and when sold fetch only nominal prices. A geological survey of the Dependency has never been made.

11.—LABOUR.

Common labourers employed in the salt industry earn from 3s. to 3s. 6d. a day in raking and carting salt, and from 4s. to 8s. a day in shipping it. Stevedores, employed on steamers engaged in the South American trade, that call at Grand Turk for them, receive 2s. 6d. a day and rations. Carpenters and blacksmiths earn from 6s. to 12s. a day. There is a great scarcity of efficient artisans and skilled mechanics. Agriculture is engaged in, on a small scale, by peasant proprietors in the Caicos Islands. Efficient domestic servants are very scarce.

12.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Legislation.

Sixteen ordinances were passed by the Legislative Board during the year 1927.

No. 1 provided for the payment of a fee for a Bill of Health : No. 2 compelled the closing of shops and stores on public holidays : No. 3 amended the Magistrates' Code of Procedure Ordinance so as to extend the jurisdiction of the Magistrate : Nos. 4 and 5 were the usual Appropriation (1927) and Supplementary Appropriation (1926) Ordinances : No. 6 provided for the collection of fees by means of stamps : No. 7 repealed the law regulating the purchase of cotton : No. 8 provided for a weekly half-holiday on Wednesdays : No. 9 amended the Customs tariff : No. 10 provided for the admission free of duty, of certain materials imported by the Cable Company : No. 11 provided for the sittings of the Supreme Court to be held quarterly, instead of bi-monthly : No. 12 provided for the appointment of an acting Magistrate in certain events : No. 13 provided for the suppression of obscene publications : No. 14 amended the law in regard to slaughter-houses : No. 15 amended the law in regard to petty trespass ; and No. 16 provided for the payment of a fee in respect of customs bonds.

Meteorological.

The readings taken at the Weather Bureau Station at Grand Turk in latitude $21^{\circ} 22''$ N. and longitude $71^{\circ} 27'$ W., at a height of 11.3 feet above sea-level, were as follows :—

Rainfall	... ..	21.95 inches.
Maximum temperature	... ..	90°
Minimum temperature	... ..	63.5°

The average rainfall during the year 1927, from observations at eight stations throughout the Dependency, was 22.42 inches. The maximum was recorded at Cockburn Harbour, measuring 29.83 inches, and the minimum at Salt Cay, registering 16.06 inches. The average annual rainfall during the 5 years 1923-27 was 25.97 inches.

Paupers.

Fifty-six persons were receiving out-door relief at the end of the year 1927.

Immigration.

During the year under review, the number of immigrants exceeded the number of emigrants by 140. Many of the labourers who left the Dependency in recent years to seek employment in the lumber industry in the Bahamas returned to their homes last year.

H. E. PHILLIPS,
COMMISSIONER.

Grand Turk,
25th May, 1928.

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NORTHERN RHODESIA.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1927.

PREFACE.

The territory known as the Protectorate of Northern Rhodesia lies between Longitudes 22° E. and $33^{\circ} 35'$ E. and between Latitudes $8^{\circ} 15'$ S. and 18° S. It is bounded on the west by Angola, on the north-west by the Belgian Congo, on the north-east by Tanganyika Territory, on the east by the Nyasaland Protectorate and Portuguese East Africa, and on the south by Southern Rhodesia and the mandated territory of South West Africa; comprising in all an area that is computed to be about 278,950 square miles. The River Zambesi forms the greater part of the southern boundary; its two main northern tributaries are the rivers Kafue and Luangwa. With the exception of these river valleys, the territory consists of a table-land varying from 3,000 to 4,500 feet in height, though in the north-eastern portion, and especially in the vicinity of Lake Tanganyika, the altitude is greater.

Very little is known of the history of the native population until quite recent years. It is conjectured that the various movements of the Bantu people from the north, starting perhaps 2,500 years ago, crossed and recrossed what is now Northern Rhodesia. Whether these movements, in their effect on this portion of Central Africa, were migratory or predatory, whether they found any aboriginal inhabitants or traversed an uninhabited forest, whether they resulted in any form of settlement or merely passed to other parts of Africa, is alike unknown. All that can be said is that the vast majority of the present native population, though of Bantu origin, is descended from men who themselves invaded this country not earlier than 1700 A.D. One or two small tribes, numbering now only a very few thousand, such as the Masubia on the Zambesi, are all that remain of the inhabitants of Northern Rhodesia prior to that date. Inroads from the north were frequent as well as from the south, whence came the Angoni, a branch of the warlike Zulu, in the middle of the 19th century. At the present time statistics are available of seventy different tribes resident in the Territory, of which the most important are the Awemba (108,310), Achewa (71,488), Angoni (49,131), and Awisa (46,549) in the eastern districts; the Barotse (110,079), Batonga (95,818), Balenge (39,675), Balala (38,495), Balovale (31,173), and Bakaonde (30,182) in the western districts; and the Asenga (62,385) and Alunda (56,609), members of whom are resident in both eastern and western districts. There are said to be 38 distinct native languages in use, of which Chiwemba and Chinyanja have been adopted for educational purposes in the eastern districts, and Chitonga (closely allied to Chila) and Sikololo in the western. In addition to these, Chinyanja

is in use as the official language of the Police, and is probably the language most generally spoken by Europeans; it is really a Nyasaland language—the word means “Language of the Lake”—but it is also spoken to some extent round Fort Jameson.

The earliest recorded information about Northern Rhodesia is contained in the diaries of the Portuguese Governor of Sena, Dr. Lacerda, and of his chaplain, Pinto, who led an expedition in 1798 from Tete into Kasembe's country, close to the eastern shore of Lake Mweru. Little more is known of the history of the country until the arrival of Dr. Livingstone in 1855, when he visited the Victoria Falls and travelled through Barotseland. But, in the interval, Arab inroads from the north had occurred, and the slave trade which they established continued unchecked until 1893. This baleful influence had gradually spread from the shores of lakes Nyasa and Tanganyika over the whole territory; but with the establishment of a Government post at Abercorn in that year the slave trade in this part of Africa received its first serious check. In each succeeding year more Arab settlements on the lake shores were destroyed; Sir Harry Johnston defeated the Arab Chief Mlozo at Karonga in 1894, and the last caravan of slaves, which was intercepted on its way to the East Coast, was released at Fort Jameson in 1898. Even after that, bands of slave-traders were occasionally encountered on the north-east boundary, and skirmishes with them took place as late as 1900; but, with the final establishment of the administration of the British South Africa Company, the slavers quickly disappeared from the country.

Previous to 1899 the whole territory had been vaguely included in the Charter granted to the British South Africa Company, but in that year the Barotseland—North-Western Rhodesia Order in Council placed the administration of the western portion of the country by the Company on a firm basis; and this was closely followed by the North-Eastern Rhodesia Order in Council of 1900 with similar effect. The two territories were amalgamated in 1911 under the designation of Northern Rhodesia, and the administration of the Company (subject to the exercise of certain powers of control by the Crown) continued until 1924, when, in terms of a settlement arrived at between the Crown and the Company, the administration of the Territory was assumed by the Crown, and the first Governor was appointed on 1st April, 1924.

The currency in use consists partly of English coinage and partly of notes of the Southern Rhodesia issue of the Standard Bank of South Africa and Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial, and Overseas), both of which have branches and agencies in this country. The coins and notes of the Union of South Africa are also current at par.

English weights and measures are employed.

There are considerable climatic differences between various parts of the country. The Zambesi, the Luangwa, and the Kafue valleys experience a much greater humidity and a more trying heat than do the plateaux above 3,500 or 4,000 feet. The hottest months are October and November, before the rains break, when the mean maximum is about 97° in the Zambesi valley stations and 85° at plateau stations. The mean maximum for the eight months of the hot season (September to April) is approximately 90.3° , with a mean minimum of 64.5° , while the corresponding figures for the four months of the cold season (May to August) are 78.7° and 46.6° . During 1927 the highest mean maximum recorded at Livingstone for any one month was 93.8° in October, and the lowest mean minimum for any one month was 44.3° in June; at the same station the absolute maximum for the year was 102.6° recorded in November, and the absolute minimum was 36.6° recorded in May. The highest temperature recorded in the Territory was 116° at the Barotse National School in October, and the lowest was 22° at Sesheke in July.

The rainy season usually commences in November and lasts until April, after which month rain is only rarely experienced and then in negligible quantities. Final figures for the 1927-28 season are not yet available but it appears that the fall in Livingstone and along the Railway Strip to Broken Hill was under normal. In practically all districts the commencement of the rains was later than usual, but, after the rains set in, there were no prolonged droughts such as were experienced during the wet season 1926-27. The rainfall recorded at Livingstone was 19.17 inches; at Broken Hill, 31.42 inches; Fort Jameson, 41.82 inches; and at Abercorn 44.17 inches. In the western districts 55.51 inches were recorded at Mwinilunga and 46.36 inches at Mongu. Minor earth tremors were felt at various places in the Territory.

I.—GENERAL.

The year under review saw the first change in the Governorship of the Protectorate since the Crown assumed its administration in April, 1924. Sir H. J. Stanley, K.C.M.G., the Territory's first Governor, was appointed Governor of Ceylon and he left Northern Rhodesia on 25th July to take up this post, being succeeded on 31st August by Sir J. Crawford Maxwell, K.B.E., C.M.G., Colonial Secretary of the Gold Coast. Prior to his departure for Ceylon Sir H. J. Stanley had been on leave in the United Kingdom and during this period and pending the arrival of Sir J. C. Maxwell Mr. R. A. J. Goode, C.M.G., C.B.E., acted as Governor of the Territory.

In January Sir P. J. Macdonell, who had been Judge of the High Court since 1919, left the Territory for Trinidad, being succeeded by Mr. E. R. Logan, Chief Justice of the Bahamas, who

assumed his duties here on 1st May. Mr. E. S. B. Tagart acted as Judge of the High Court pending Mr. Justice Logan's arrival.

The Territory suffered a severe loss by the death, in January, from enteric of Mr. G. D. Clough, O.B.E., Attorney-General. He was succeeded by Mr. F. Gordon Smith, formerly Assistant Attorney-General, who returned to this Territory from Kenya Colony.

Sir H. J. Stanley, Governor of Northern Rhodesia, represented the Protectorate at the Colonial Office Conference which was held in London on 10th May and subsequent days.

The Third Conference of Unofficial Representatives of the East African Colonies and Protectorates was held at Nairobi in August. The only representative of Northern Rhodesia who was able to attend was Captain T. H. Murray, M.C. Among the subjects discussed were Inter-Colonial Co-ordination, Colonial Office Control, European Settlements, Railways, Roads and Bridges, Native Policy, Imperial Preference, Research, Forestry, Fuel Oils, Aviation, and European Education.

In March, four machines of the South African Air Force passed over the Territory, calling at several stations, and in April these returned together with four machines of the Royal Air Force in Egypt, the latter returning to Egypt alone in May. It is understood that these flights will be made annually by both Forces. Lieutenant Bentley, in the course of his solo flight from London to Cape Town in the "Star" Moth in September, alighted at various places in the Territory.

The Railway Commission to which reference was made in last year's report came into being as a result of the Railways Ordinance, 1927, and has its Headquarters in Bulawayo. Mr. R. A. J. Goode, C.M.G., C.B.E., who had been Chief Secretary for Northern Rhodesia and Acting Administrator or Governor's Deputy on many occasions, was appointed as Northern Rhodesia's representative. Mr. Goode has since been created a Knight Bachelor by His Majesty in the New Year (1928) Honours.

Continuing the policy of demarcating Native Reserves in the Territory, a Commission sat during the year under the presidency of Mr. J. Moffat Thomson to make recommendations as to land in the Tanganyika District where the British South Africa Company have extensive land rights. Its report has been prepared but its recommendations have not yet been published.

The Legislative Council met three times, the second Session of the Second Council being opened on 11th February, 1927, and succeeding Sessions on 8th July and 25th November.

Conferences held during the year included a Veterinary Conference in August, at Livingstone, between representatives of Northern Rhodesia, Southern Rhodesia, and the Belgian Congo, on the question of cattle transit through Northern Rhodesia, and a Missionary Conference in July at Livingstone. The first Conference of Senior Political Officers to be held in the Territory took place in November, 1927, when numerous questions of importance in connection with native administration were discussed.

In August the Right Honourable L. S. Amery, M.P., Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs, paid a short visit to Livingstone. Another distinguished visitor was Sir Edward Grigg, K.C.V.O., C.M.G., D.S.O., Governor of Kenya Colony, who visited Livingstone in August.

Some members of the Empire Chambers of Commerce Congress visited Livingstone in October from the Victoria Falls.

The year has seen a continuance of the mining and commercial activity which was noted in 1926; and the progress made is reflected in the vital statistics for the year. No census has been taken since 1921, but the European population on 31st December, 1927, was computed at 7,275—3,492 adult males, 1,908 adult females, and 1,875 children. This shows an increase of 3,090 Europeans since 1st April, 1924. The native population is estimated to number 1,237,486, as compared with 1,199,163 in 1926, and 979,704 in 1921. There are also between 70 and 80 Asiatics. Immigrants into Northern Rhodesia in 1927, exclusive of natives, numbered 1,038, of whom 924 were British subjects. The following comparative figures of immigration are indicative of the increasing progress being made by the Territory, the figures representing only those who entered the Territory for residence and not including visitors :—

1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
260	438	474	756	1,038

Twenty persons were deported, sixteen having criminal records, three being indigent, and one illiterate. Of these, ten were natives. No figures of emigration are available.

As regards native affairs, the year has been quiet and uneventful but there are signs of progress having been made in various directions. As an example, it is clear that the native mind is becoming more receptive as regards medical treatment and in this and other ways the native psychology is being cultivated and advanced. The measures adopted in dealing with the followers of Mwanalesa, to whom reference was made in last year's report, appear to have been entirely successful and the native population has been peaceful and law abiding.

II.—FINANCE.

The revenue from all sources for the year ended 31st March, 1928, was appreciably greater than that for the preceding year, the increase being approximately 12½ per cent. on the previous year's total of £421,035 without any material change in the basis of taxation. Revenue from Customs duties was about 35 per cent. larger, while the receipts from income tax rose from £65,539 in 1926-27 to £75,028 in 1927-28. There was a considerable advance in the number of income tax assessments. On the 1st January, 1928, the Motor Traffic Ordinance, 1927, came into operation and was instrumental in increasing the revenue from licences, taxes, and internal revenue. Generally speaking the revenue from licences was higher than in 1926-27, which is accounted for by a steady increase in the Territory's European population. The receipts falling under the head of Fees of Court or Office, etc., were lower than in the previous year, the chief reason for this being that as from the 1st April, 1927, the Service pensions of civil servants ceased to be on a contributory basis. The revenue from the Post Office was buoyant and a marked increase of business has to be recorded in all branches of the Posts and Telegraphs service. There was a somewhat larger revenue than in the preceding year from the rents of Government property. As the Government had smaller surplus cash balances at its disposal in 1927-28 than in the previous year there was some decline in interest. Miscellaneous receipts exceeded those of 1926-27, chiefly owing to the sale of heavy stocks of ivory. The revenue from land sales was greater than in the preceding year, mainly by reason of a keener demand for township plots.

The expenditure for 1927-28 was estimated at £518,666 and this figure has been slightly exceeded. The increase over the expenditure of £455,451 for the year 1926-27 represents a percentage increase of about 14 per cent. Services rendered to the public account for a considerable part of the increase, the expenditure on European Education, the Posts and Telegraphs Department, Civil Police, and Health being appreciably greater than in the preceding year. The expenditure under the head Public Works Annually Recurrent was also much heavier than in 1926-27 owing to the necessity of maintaining a larger mileage of roads and to the heavy cost of the maintenance and repair of Government buildings. The largest increase was, however, under the head Pensions and Gratuities, and is mainly due to the somewhat large number of civil servants who retired during the year and commuted part of their pension for a gratuity of ten times the amount of the surrendered portion. In this way a sum of over £10,000 was disbursed in gratuities in addition to an increase in the amount expended in pensions to a greater number of retired officers. A further reason for the increase in expenditure was the considerably larger programme of extraordinary expenditure on public works.

Nevertheless, the deficit for the year will be about £15,000 less than was originally estimated. A comparative schedule of revenue and expenditure for this and the previous year is appended.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE TO THE
END OF MARCH, 1928.

<i>Head of Expenditure.</i>	<i>Actual Expenditure to 31st March, 1928.</i>
	£
1. The Governor	5,937
2. Secretariat	6,660
3. European Education	15,801
4. Printing and Stationery	6,370
5. Department of Native Affairs	13,244
6. District Administration	104,380
7. Treasury	9,242
8. Income Tax	2,178
9. Customs	11,543
10. Posts and Telegraphs	31,331
12. Lands Department	14,547
13. Survey Department	9,643
14. Audit	2,868
15. Judicial, Legal, and Prisons	22,405
16. Northern Rhodesia Police	59,287
17. Health	45,571
18. Veterinary	19,084
19. Agriculture	10,289
20. Mines and Public Works Department	9,999
21. Public Works Annually Recurrent	25,224
23. Percentage of Tax	8,100
24. Miscellaneous	12,391
25. Pensions and Gratuities	29,081
Total Ordinary	£475,175
<i>Extraordinary :</i>	
4. Printing and Stationery	—
11. Posts and Telegraphs	1,773
22. Public Works... ..	41,858
Grand Total	£518,806

STATEMENT SHOWING THE ACTUAL REVENUE TO THE
END OF MARCH, 1928.

<i>Head of Revenue.</i>	<i>Actual Revenue to 31st March, 1928.</i>
	£
1. Customs	146,501
2. Licences, Taxes and Internal Revenue ...	220,339
3. Fees of Court or Office, etc. ...	33,363
4. Post Office	32,867
5. Rents of Government Property ...	10,666
6. Interest	2,092
7. Miscellaneous	9,671
	<hr/>
Total	£455,499
8. Land Sales	19,184
	<hr/>
Grand Total	£474,683

The deficit for the year, therefore, amounted to £44,123, as against an estimated deficit of £64,968.

The following statement gives the financial position as at 31st March, 1928 :—

	£
Excess of Assets over Liabilities at 1st April, 1927	174,904
Excess of Expenditure over Revenue, 1927-28	£44,123
Refund to Imperial Treasury on Account of Loan Grants in Aid ...	50,000
	<hr/>
	94,123
	<hr/>
Excess of Assets over Liabilities at 31st March, 1928	£80,781

The following is a statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st March, 1928.

<i>Liabilities.</i>	£	s.	d.
Deposits	32,488	3	9
Post Office Savings Bank	5,368	15	10
Administrator-General and Registrar ...	4,191	2	6
Crown Agents for the Colonies :—			
Overdraft	52,000	0	0
Excess of Assets over Liabilities ...	80,781	5	0
	<hr/>		
	£174,829	7	1

<i>Assets.</i>	£	s.	d.
Cash	53,192	17	1
Investments	5,000	0	0
Administrator-General and Registrar ...	4,191	2	6
Advances pending receipt of Loan Funds :—			
Roads and Bridges	38,941	11	3
Central Research	7,412	16	9
Zambesi Survey	3,250	0	0
Advances	25,246	18	8
Unallocated Stores	37,594	0	10
	<hr/>		
	£174,829	7	1

During the last five years there have been continuous large increases in both the revenue and the expenditure of the territory, as the following table shows :—

<i>Revenue.</i>		<i>Expenditure.</i>	
	£	<i>Ordinary.</i>	<i>Extraordinary.</i>
	£	£	£
1923-24 ...	279,020	319,154	... 4,355
1924-25 ...	309,795	325,778	... 14,549
1925-26 ...	371,046	372,847	... 21,298
1926-27 ...	421,035	421,584	... 33,867
1927-28 ...	474,683	475,175	... 43,631

In addition to the recurrent and extraordinary expenditure to which reference is made above the Government expended during 1927-28 between £40,000 and £45,000 on development schemes in anticipation of a loan of £224,000 to be raised under Imperial guarantee. This expenditure is at present financed by advances from the Crown Agents. The development schemes that are being undertaken by the Government are :—

(1) The construction of arterial roads, including necessary bridges and pontoons, estimated to cost £185,000.

(2) The construction of a Central Research Station at Mazabuka for the Agricultural and Veterinary Departments, the estimated cost of which is £30,000.

(3) The aerial survey of the Zambesi river at a total cost of £6,500.

(4) The establishment of a port at Mpulungu on Lake Tanganyika costing £2,500.

The Banks that operate in Northern Rhodesia are :—

(1) The Standard Bank of South Africa, Limited, which has branches at Livingstone and Lusaka, and a sub-branch at Mazabuka, and

(2) Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial, and Overseas) which is established at Broken Hill, Ndola, Fort Jameson, and Bwana M'kubwa.

The total of the amounts deposited at these Banks at the 31st December, 1927, was £519,035 as compared with £458,292 at the 31st December, 1926.

The Post Office Savings Bank has increased its operations, the deposits at 31st December, 1927, amounting to £4,650 as compared with £2,422 at 31st December, 1926. During the year the amount invested on behalf of depositors increased by £2,500 to £4,000. The sums deposited during 1927 amounted to £5,669 as compared with £3,313 in 1926. It is apparent, therefore, that the Savings Bank is growing in popularity and provides a much-needed service. At the 31st December, 1927, there were 276 depositors, a net increase of 117 for the year.

III.—PRODUCTION.

A.—Land and Agriculture.

Of the total approximate area in the Territory, of 184,288,000 acres, the North Charterland Exploration Company holds, subject to the due assignment of native reserves, a concession over 6,400,040 acres, the British South Africa Company owns three freehold areas comprising 2,758,400 acres in Tanganyika District, and 2,645,075 acres have been otherwise alienated for purposes of European settlement, not including 28,460 acres leased without option to purchase. The total area of alienated land is, therefore, 11,831,975 acres, about 6.42 per cent. of the whole Territory.

Most of the alienated land is used for grazing; some of it is cultivated but a large area is unsuitable for either grazing or cultivation owing to the absence of water.

The following table will give a comparative idea of the acreage under the various staple crops under cultivation in the four previous seasons :—

<i>Season.</i>	<i>Maize.</i>	<i>* Tobacco.</i>	<i>Wheat.</i>	<i>Cotton.</i>	<i>Total under</i>
	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>cultivation</i>
1923-24 ...	42,377	3,462	1,250	2,331	52,243
1924-25 ...	35,568	4,323	2,633	16,702	61,712
1925-26 ...	36,470	4,939	3,387	11,849	60,297
1926-27 ...	44,837	6,719	2,780	693	69,837

Smaller areas were planted with fodder-crops, groundnuts, beans, potatoes, kaffir corn, oats, etc., which are considered minor crops.

Climatic conditions were again somewhat unfavourable to the European agricultural community, the rainfall for the season 1926-27 being below the average. In March when it is usual to

expect comparatively heavy rain, none fell after the first few days except in a few areas where, however, the fall was very scanty. Even before their cessation, the rains had been very irregular with the result that the average yield of most crops was lower than normal although production generally was greater than was at first anticipated. But the results of the season's work were better than those obtained during the abnormally wet season of 1924-25 and, taking all circumstances into consideration, the year must be looked upon as successful.

The maize crop amounted to 250,068 bags, the yield being 5.5 bags per acre. Although this average is the highest yet recorded it does not accurately define the position as regards maize grown for export. A number of farmers grow maize only for home consumption and the conditions under which it is produced are such as to lower the crop average. The tendency, which has been prevalent, to plant ever-increasing acreages is being slowly displaced by a policy of reasonable acreages well planted and fertilized. The continuance of such a policy must, in time, result in great advantage to the grower and increase in yields. The grain produced in 1926-27 was, on the whole, of good quality, well reaped and in hard condition, and growers in the Territory were successful exhibitors at Shows in Southern Rhodesia and the Union of South Africa.

The following table gives maize statistics from 1921 onwards :

<i>Year ending 31st December.</i>	<i>Acreage, in thousands of acres</i>	<i>Average yield per acre.</i>	<i>Yield, in thousands of bags.</i>	<i>Farm con- sumption, in thousands of bags.</i>	<i>Surplus available for sale, in thousands of bags.</i>
1921	29	4.88	145	18	127
1922	25	3.49	99	18	81
1923	38	5.18	199	32	167
1924	35	3.08	129	28	101
1925	36	2.67	95	23	72
1926	36	4.87	177	37	140
1927	44	5.50	250	36	214

The above figures are exclusive of native-grown maize of which no reliable statistics are available.

After satisfying all local requirements the maize grown has supplied a considerable amount for export to the Belgian Congo. Practically all the farm-grown maize is handled by a Co-operative Society which, in the past, has secured large contracts for the Congo mines and it is hoped that similar contracts will be obtained in the future. Owing to the development in mining areas in the Territory, the local demand for maize has increased very considerably and the general position is satisfactory. The average price of farm-grown maize, which must be regarded as the Territory's staple crop, has been about 11s. 6d. per bag of 200 lb. net.

The tobacco crop amounted to 3,005,798 lb., the greater portion to which was produced in the Fort Jameson District. The variety principally grown is a bright Virginia, and, in the past, has found a ready market for cigarette manufacture. The prices which have been realised in the past few years have been most satisfactory, but the present position of the tobacco market is such that a limited acreage should be planted in the near future until conditions have become stabilised.

The wheat crop amounted to 10,586 bags and it is discouraging to find that the acreage under wheat has been 607 less than last year and the total yield has decreased by 1,100 bags. It was thought that the increased acreage planted last year, combined with the establishment of a flour mill at Choma and the increased demand resulting from mining activity, would have brought about a still greater increase. The fact that practically all the flour consumed in Northern Rhodesia is imported indicates the possibilities of this crop which can be grown satisfactorily where irrigation facilities exist.

Comparative figures for the past three years are as under:—

					<i>Yield, in Bags</i>	
					<i>Acreage planted.</i>	<i>of 200 lb. net.</i>
1925	...	...	...	...	2,633	9,895
1926	...	...	...	...	3,387	11,687
1927	...	...	...	...	2,780	10,586

This failure to cater for the increasing demand caused by the greater number of Europeans employed in the mining areas is further reflected in the position with regard to dairy produce and vegetables. Every year large quantities of butter, eggs, and vegetables are imported from the south in excess of home production.

The crops grown by natives are at present mainly confined to food-stuffs for their own consumption though, in certain districts, especially in the proximity of mines, additional quantities are grown for sale. Preliminary investigations have been made with a view to ascertaining whether other economic crops can be introduced to areas remote from the railway line and the mines, to enable the natives to produce cash crops at their own villages. It is feared that little can be done in the matter without far more detailed investigations into the conditions, and without trained demonstrators, in such remote areas. At the present time agricultural education of an elementary nature is being given by various missionary societies, and grants for this purpose have been made to them by the Government.

It is realised that the building up of a sound native agricultural industry must be slow, in order to eliminate many of the risks liable to be incurred through erroneous advice due to inadequate opportunity to investigate agricultural problems in the remote areas. Further risks are liable to be incurred by sudden increase in production.

Owing to the existence of extensive tsetse fly belts, large areas of the Territory are closed to cattle. It has been found possible, however, to maintain ox-transport in the vicinity of certain of the new mining concerns which are situated within tsetse fly belts by the intravenous injection of sodium or potassium antimony tartrate. The palliative effect of the drug is sufficient to keep trypanosomiasis-infected cattle in work for considerable periods. Good results in the curative treatment of the disease still attend the administration, intravenously, of solutions of antimony tartrate and there is ample proof that, where animals are not again exposed to infection, many permanent cures are effected. The transportation of tsetse fly by motor vehicles constitutes a menace to the settled areas and calls for serious consideration.

In the Barotse District there are large numbers of cattle, almost entirely native-owned. Contagious bovine pleuro-pneumonia is enzootic in that district, but the measures in force to prevent its spread to the settled areas continue to be effective. An extensive inoculation scheme for the elimination of the disease from Barotse-land is contemplated.

In the remainder of the Territory there are approximately 638,767 native-owned and 97,479 European-owned cattle, the majority of which are unimproved. Grading up by the use of good bulls of the improved breeds is practised by the more enlightened farmers and its results are noticeable in many parts of the Territory.

Although the native, generally speaking, is still conservative and apathetic on the subject of improvement of his herds, there are continued indications that he is beginning to take more interest in animal husbandry. Every opportunity is taken by the staff of the Veterinary Department to impart the elementary principles of animal husbandry, to emphasise the deleterious effects of inbreeding and neglect of castration, and to foster the practice of selection and general improvement.

As a result of the increased facilities for the use of motor-cars in practically all portions of the settled areas, horse and mule transport has almost disappeared and the number of these animals is negligible.

A considerable trade in live stock for slaughter purposes is done with the Katanga Province of the Belgian Congo. The requirements of the local markets, especially in the mining areas, are increasing annually, and the supply of slaughter cattle from

Northern Rhodesia is insufficient to meet the demands of the Katanga. The highest price obtained for slaughter stock within the Territory during 1927 was 33s. per 100 lb. (dead weight) and the average price about 30s. Native stock realised 22s. to 27s. 6d. per 100 lb. (dead weight).

A creamery has been established at Choma and has met with success. The farming community is coming to realise that dairying, with its products and by-products, is a valuable adjunct to mixed farming, and although Northern Rhodesia still imports dairy produce the local output is increasing.

The settled areas of the country are free from any of the sweeping epizootic cattle diseases. Energetic veterinary and police measures have been successful in preventing the invasion of rinderpest from the north, East Coast fever from the south, and contagious bovine pleuro-pneumonia from the west. Sporadic outbreaks of anthrax and quarter-evil occur, but they are promptly suppressed by quarantine, proper disposal of carcasses, vaccination, and inoculation. Skin diseases of stock yield to regular dipping, and dipping is responsible too for maintenance and improvement in the condition of cattle.

Apart from the Fort Jameson District of North-Eastern Rhodesia, in which a few cases of tuberculosis have come under notice, this Territory would appear to be practically free from this disease. This latter fact may be regarded as one of the most valuable pastoral assets of the greater part of the Territory.

Some loss occurs from indigenous diseases of cattle, and experimental work on their incidence, aetiology, transmission, and treatment is being done. The elimination of these diseases would facilitate the process of grading up by means of pedigree stock already referred to.

It is being more and more realised that Northern Rhodesia is a valuable cattle country and that, by means of paddocking and sound methods of herding, farms can be made to carry more stock according to their acreage than has hitherto been considered possible.

B.—Mining.

The year under review was again one of intensive development and prospecting rather than of production.

The Bwana M'Kubwa plant, which at the time of erection was considered capable of treating 1,200 tons of copper ore per day, came into operation early in the year, but results were disappointing owing to difficulties caused by the design of the plant and the low grade of the ore delivered from the mine. These, however, are being overcome and it appears that, though the ore from Bwana M'Kubwa itself will hardly justify the continuance of the plant, there are reserves of ores of sufficiently good grade at Nkana

Mine to keep it in operation for many years to come. Nkana belongs to the same company as Bwana M'Kubwa and a railway joining it to the main line near Ndola has been sanctioned and the route surveyed.

At the Rhodesia Broken Hill Mine, the new electrolytic zinc plant was practically complete by the end of the year and trial runs promise well for production in 1928. In the meantime, development has been proceeding, resulting in the discovery of very large quantities of lead ore, the existence of which had previously been unknown.

Development work at the Roan Antelope Copper Mine has been so satisfactory that plans have been made for erecting a treatment plant and general equipment, and powers have been obtained for building a railway from the mine to the main line.

The Rhodesia Congo Border Concession Company at Nchanga Mine have encountered difficulties which have hindered shaft-sinking but these are being overcome and development is proceeding satisfactorily.

The concession companies under the control of the Anglo-American Corporation have conducted an aerial survey over a large portion of their territory and 10,000 square miles have thus been mapped and surveyed. Dr. Bancroft, of McGill University, Montreal, is in charge of the geological and prospecting work and he is assisted by some twenty-six qualified geologists who, in the course of their search for mineral deposits of economic importance, are providing information from which a geological map of the Territory is being compiled.

The producing mines and concessions employed on an average 849 Europeans and 10,087 natives.

The following is a statement of the actual production for the year, together with the value of the minerals produced. For the purposes of comparison, figures for 1925 and 1926 are also given :—

1927.			1926.			1925.		
		£		£			£	
Gold ...	352 oz.	1,479	770 oz.	3,236	1,248 oz.		5,421	
Silver ...	54 oz.	5	18,408 oz.	3,101	—			
Copper ...	3,290 tons	197,231	709 tons	43,829	—			
Copper Con- centrates.	29 „	920	—	—	—			
Lead ...	5,857 „	143,127	3,833 tons	101,215	3,352 tons		51,455	
Mica ...	8½ „	4,378	3 „	1,693	—			
Vanadium oxide	10 „	2,465	42 „	10,987	187 tons		52,485	
Manganese ...	20 „	106	—	—	—			
Iron ore ...	2,260 „	1,133	—	—	—			
Manganese oxide	674 „	1,012	—	—	—			
Zinc ...	326 „	8,481	236 tons	3,766	236 tons		5,951	
Zinc ore ...	—	—	485 „	1,455	—			
Total value of production		£360,337		£169,282			£115,312	

The figures given for 1927 are subject to final adjustments which will probably cause them to be greater than shown above.

The companies actively engaged in mining during 1927 and the capital involved were as follows :—

Rhodesia Broken Hill Development Company, Limited, capital, £2,500,000 ;

Bwana M'Kubwa Copper Mining Company, Limited, capital £2,000,000 ;

Nchanga Copper Mines, Limited, capital £600,000 ;

Roan Antelope Copper Mine, Limited, capital £600,000 ;

Rhodesia Congo Border Concessions, Limited, capital £575,000 ;

Serenje Concessions, Limited, capital £225,000 ;

Kasama Concessions, Limited, capital £225,000 ;

Loangwa Concessions, Limited, capital £200,000 ;

Rhodesia Mineral Concessions, capital £200,000 ;

Falcon Mines, capital £600,000 ;

Total capital, £7,725,000.

The last two companies named above also have interests in Southern Rhodesia.

C.—Industry.

The only industrial establishment in the Territory, at present, is the Zambesi Saw Mills, Limited, which has a sawing plant at Livingstone. The company has been granted concessions over certain forest areas to the north-west of Livingstone, and the timber cut therein is brought down to the mills by means of a light railway some forty miles in length. The company has a contract for supplying sleepers to the South African Railways, and it also supplies most of the requirements of the Rhodesia Railways. About 50 Europeans and about 1,500 natives are now employed in this industry.

There is a fishing and fish-curing industry carried on by natives on the banks of Lakes Mweru and Bangweulu. A ready market for dried fish is found on the Katanga Mines and with one or two European traders who are established in the vicinity, and the industry, though naturally limited, continues to flourish. There is also a small trade in dried fish on the Kafue river near the railway line, and in the Zambesi valley. Natives in the swamps to the south of Lake Bangweulu carry on a considerable trade in otter skins. There is also a native salt industry in the Mpika and Chiengi sub-districts, and to a lesser extent in the Kasempa sub-district ; while in various districts a considerable trade in native tobacco is carried on. But the fact remains that, apart from the limited activities noted above and the production of food crops, the old native industries have been killed by the importation of articles

of European manufacture. It is not worth while to smelt iron nowadays when scrap iron can be picked up anywhere. Pottery has been replaced by the enamel basin and jug, and other industries have suffered in the same way. There is no longer a market for the old native trade goods. They have passed out of date. There are indications, however, that, if the opportunity of production is presented to natives whose experience at mining centres has given them some education in business matters, they are capable of working successfully on their own and without European supervision. It has been suggested that the Barotse River tribes, if instructed in boat building, might become skilled in this craft, and the question is receiving attention.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

Northern Rhodesia is in the curious position of being divided into two Customs zones. The northern zone, which is known as the Congo Basin, is governed by the conditions of the Berlin Act of 1885. Goods imported into this zone, therefore, are not subject to the terms of the Agreement with Southern Rhodesia and the Union of South Africa, though the duties imposed are in almost all instances similar to those imposed in the southern zone, except that equality of trade is granted to all nations. The Zambesi Basin, as the latter is called, is subject to Customs Agreement with Southern Rhodesia, with the Union of South Africa and with the High Commission Territories of Bechuanaland, Basutoland, and Swaziland. Under the existing Agreement Northern Rhodesia receives 12 per cent. *ad valorem* on removals from the Union of South Africa of imported goods, and 6 per cent. on removals of South African manufactured goods; unmanufactured produce of South Africa is not subject to duty. The Union of South Africa charges the actual duty at Union rates on removals from Northern Rhodesia of imported goods, but allows entry to Northern Rhodesia produce free of duty. The minimum sum payable by the Union to this Territory is £12,500 per annum.

On imported goods removed from Southern Rhodesia to Northern Rhodesia the duty is calculated at Northern Rhodesia tariff rates, a deduction of 5 per cent. being made on collections and vice versa in the case of removals from Northern Rhodesia to Southern Rhodesia.

With regard to manufactures and products there is a free interchange of these between Southern Rhodesia and Northern Rhodesia.

The following table of Imports and Exports shows an excess of the latter over the former during the year under review, but this adverse balance can be mainly attributed to the large amount of mining machinery which has necessarily been imported for the development of the mining industry, the production of which should in due course cause imports and exports to balance.

Statement showing the value of Imports and Exports for the Year 1927, from and to other countries, and also the corresponding figures for the preceding three years.

	1927.		1926.		1925.		1924.	
	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Union of South Africa	217,063	193,824	166,001	161,439	97,648	127,130	63,228	116,222
Southern Rhodesia ...	261,093	77,221	258,884	65,548	171,482	84,916	143,842	86,499
United Kingdom and other British Possessions.	987,502	272,045	818,718	142,761	760,017	91,900	328,746	98,655
Total British Empire	1,465,658	543,090	1,243,603	869,743	1,029,147	258,946	535,816	240,500
Foreign Countries ...	491,480	202,504	423,981	112,728	254,878	178,046	126,826	213,744
Total Merchandise ...	£1,957,138	£745,594	£1,667,584	£482,471	£1,284,025	£431,992	£662,642	£454,244

These figures show the percentage of trade to be :—

	1927.	1926.	1925.	1924.
Union of South Africa ...	11.1	10.0	7.6	15.5
Southern Rhodesia ...	13.3	15.5	13.4	16.1
United Kingdom and other British Possessions.	50.4	49.1	59.2	37.9
Total British Empire ...	74.8	74.6	80.2	69.5
Foreign Countries ...	25.2	25.4	19.8	30.5

The gross Customs revenue collected for the past five years is shown in the following table :—

1927.	1926.	1925.	1924.	1923.
£144,841	£102,254	£83,567	£76,359	£62,059

IMPORTS.

The principal articles imported during 1927 were as under, figures for 1923 to 1926 being also given :—

	1927.	1926.	1925.	1924.	1923.
	£	£	£	£	£
Animals (living), agricultural and pastoral products.	41,651	44,530	30,389	2,772	21,579
Food-stuffs ...	173,630	148,733	101,584	82,626	69,051
Ales, spirits, wines, etc., (potable).	76,320	54,088	38,249	29,843	22,858
Ales, spirits, wines, etc., (non-potable).	616	474	299	231	58
Tobacco ...	38,827	27,519	19,473	16,549	14,125
Textiles, apparel, yarns, fibres.	395,548	376,527	300,536	189,657	120,464
Metals, metal manufactures, machinery, and vehicles.	717,710	576,982	522,711	157,089	95,182
Minerals, earthenware, glasses, and cement.	97,205	104,515	67,555	40,367	33,763
Oils, waxes, resins, paints, varnishes.	97,149	76,482	45,892	26,738	21,414
Drugs, chemicals and fertilisers	68,680	55,580	22,776	11,997	7,775
Leather, rubber and manufactures thereof.	46,086	30,522	21,555	14,345	10,944
Wood, cane, wicker and manufactures thereof.	62,685	56,087	35,103	19,352	19,286
Books, paper and stationery...	26,707	19,703	15,134	11,841	9,873
Jewellery, timepieces, fancy goods, etc.	34,124	24,470	19,285	13,930	10,395
Miscellaneous ...	80,200	71,372	43,484	45,305	45,235
	£1,957,138	£1,667,584	£1,284,025	£662,642	£502,002

EXPORTS.

The principal articles exported were :—

	1927.	1926.	1925.	1924.	1923
	£	£	£	£	£
Animals (living) ...	36,205	52,606	57,723	57,369	60,824
Hides, skins and horns ...	21,844	15,591	14,420	10,315	12,550
Ivory ...	8,214	7,117	8,280	9,791	10,763
Butter ...	1,445	1,219	806	509	280
Maize ...	59,711	31,246	29,513	27,914	31,018
Wheat ...	13,546	18,575	5,330	3,746	—
Maize meal ...	18,437	10,566	9,461	22,169	3,545
Pulse ...	—	497	1,167	972	255
Tobacco (unmanufactured) ...	240,568	155,832	99,122	90,788	62,643
Cotton (Raw) ...	—	4,746	6,276	9,327	898
Ores—					
Copper ...	133,115	23,566	1,000	7,253	11,802
Lead ...	88,652	43,284	67,105	104,858	190,045
Vanadium ...	6,749	4,498	35,350	29,452	—
Other ...	1,165	2,047	6,240	5,371	—
Gold ...	1,690	2,697	5,281	6,712	4,494
Silver ...	9	16	20	27	—
Lime ...	1,004	1,072	732	1,100	1,098
Timber (unmanufactured) ...	8,993	64,794	11,477	48,102	9,867
Timber sleepers ...	26,540				
Curios ...	354	505	398	1,208	998
Articles through the post ...	9,911	—	—	3	22

Except in the case of certain articles, the principal of which are :—

Cattle for slaughter, Tea, Coffee, Cocoa, Chicory, Rice, Motor Spirit, Lubrication and Illuminating Oils, Tobacco, and Wines,

Northern Rhodesia grants preferential rates on all goods as specified in the Tariff and in accordance with the laws relating thereto when such goods are shown to the satisfaction of the Controller of Customs to have been grown, produced or manufactured in the United Kingdom or British Possessions granting equivalent reciprocal privileges.

Such rebates vary in extent from 16 per cent. to 3 per cent. *ad valorem*.

The above remarks apply only to the Zambesi Basin Zone which is within the South African Customs Union. In the Congo Basin Zone no preferential rates are given to British goods on account of the provisions of the Berlin Convention, 26th February, 1885, which was renewed at St. Germain-en-Laye on 10th September, 1919, for a period of 10 years from that date.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

A.—Railways.

The principal means of communication is the Railway, which after leaving Livingstone runs in a north-easterly direction, dividing the country into two nearly equal portions. It is owned by

the Rhodesia Railways Company from Victoria Falls to Broken Hill and by the Rhodesia-Katanga Junction Railway and Mining Company from Broken Hill to Sakania, but it is run under one management and forms in effect a single railway system which stretches from Vryburg in Bechuanaland and from Beira in Portuguese East Africa through Southern Rhodesia to Sakania in the Belgian Congo. This single line enters the Protectorate by means of a remarkable bridge spanning, at a height of nearly 400 feet, the Zambesi River at the gorge some 200 yards below and within sight of the Victoria Falls. It passes Livingstone, crosses the Kafue at the station of that name, and enters the Belgian Congo slightly north of Ndola. The total length of line within the Territory is 607 miles, and there are no branch lines.

Legislation has been passed authorizing the construction of branch lines from Bwana M'Kubwa to Roan Antelope Mine and Nkana and it is believed that construction will be undertaken on these lines shortly.

B.—Roads.

With the exception of the short road known as the Jameson Road from Livingstone to the Victoria Falls, a distance of seven miles, and the private road of the Broken Hill Mining and Development Company leading from their plant and mine to the hydro-electric power station on the Mulungushi River, some thirty-six miles away, there are no macadam constructed roads in the country, and only these can be described as "all-weather" roads. All the other roads are earth roads, and, though the smaller rivers are bridged with bush timber bridges and occasionally by steel trestles and the roads embanked and sometimes gravelled where they cross marsh land, traffic is liable to be interrupted for at least two months in the year, usually in February and March.

In the last three years the mileage of roads passable for from eight to ten months in the year has very considerably increased; and, during the season when they are open, these roads compare very favourably with roads in Southern Rhodesia or the Union of South Africa.

The following are the main lines of road now open :—

The Great North Road runs from the Victoria Falls via Livingstone, Mazabuka, Lusaka, Broken Hill, Serenje, Mpika, Chambesi River, where the crossing is effected by pontoon, and Kasama, to Abercorn and Lake Tanganyika, a distance of about 1,000 miles. A branch road from near Abercorn to Mwenzo connects with the Tanganyika system and provides direct communication with Tanganyika Territory and Kenya.

A fortnightly steamboat service has been established by the Tanganyika Government on Lake Tanganyika. S.S. "Liemba"

(1,200 tons) calls at Mpulungu (26 miles from Abercorn) fortnightly and a road is at present under construction between Abercorn and this port. The Liemba's sailings are timed to correspond with the arrivals and departures of trains at Kigoma, thus affording through communication from North-Eastern Rhodesia to the port of Dar-es-Salaam.

The Rhodesia-Congo Border Road leaves the Great North Road near Kapiri Mposhi, and runs in a north-westerly direction via Ndola, Nkana, and Nchanga to Solwezi, a distance of about 312 miles. A branch road gives access to the Belgian Congo and Elizabethville.

From Solwezi a road runs in a south-westerly direction to Kasempa. It is proposed to extend this to Mumbwa and construction of this section is now in hand; this road will connect with the Great North Road at Broken Hill.

A road, known as the Great East Road, is in course of construction from Lusaka to Fort Jameson, and it is hoped to complete this by the end of 1928.

Communication with the Mweru-Luapula District is maintained by a road that crosses the *Pedicule* of the Belgian Congo from Ndola to Kapalala.

All these roads have numerous branches leading to farms, mission stations, District and Sub-District Stations, or other points of European settlement in the various districts through which they pass.

The authorisation of the East Africa Loan, in which Northern Rhodesia will share, has made possible the production of a comprehensive scheme of arterial road construction, which will include the improvement of the roads mentioned above. The development of the six-wheeled lorry and the roadless tractor is being watched with interest; and it is anticipated that the next few years will see a complete revolution in the existing transport position. Very great development is to be expected in all branches of communications.

C.—Posts, Telegraphs, and Telephones.

A line carried on the Railway Company's poles affords telegraphic communication between the Victoria Falls Bridge and the Belgian Congo, and between intervening stations. The line from Livingstone to Ndola is double, while the remainder is single, the total length of wire being 1,007 miles. There is also a telegraph line from the Nyasaland border to Abercorn and another from the same border further south to Fort Jameson; the length of wire, which is single, being 149 and 8 miles, respectively. Abercorn is also connected by telephone to Kasama, a distance of 108 miles; and via

Kituta to Kalombo on the Tanganyika border, a distance of 21 miles. The Abercorn-Kituta line is to be extended 7 miles to Mpulungu (Msende Bay) on Lake Tanganyika in the near future, and will also be connected with the Tanganyika Territory system at an early date.

A telephone service exists at Livingstone and gives continuous day and night service. The larger switch-board installed during the year is fully loaded and the provision of additional accommodation to meet the demand for connections is being considered. There is a trunk line from Livingstone to the Victoria Falls Hotel on the Southern Rhodesia side of the Zambesi.

Postal work shows a considerable increase, and once more reflects the progress that the country has made. During the year, stamps and embossed stationery were sold to the value of £15,778, as compared with £13,492 in the preceding year.

Money-orders were issued to the value of £41,904, and £27,070 was paid out in respect of money-orders issued elsewhere. The corresponding figures for the preceding year were £29,488 and £19,648. Postal orders issued numbered 42,249 and were worth £23,289, while £9,036 was paid out in respect of 15,526 postal orders.

The Cash-On-Delivery system was used by an increased number of persons, and 3,651 packets, valued at £10,882, were dealt with under it. 15,900 articles were undelivered and passed through the Returned Letter Office. The following table shows the quantities of the various kinds of mail matter received and despatched during the year, as compared with the figures for the preceding two years :—

Received.

					1927.	1926.	1925.
Letters ...	...	...	...	...	1,796,704	1,489,982	1,081,340
Postcards ...	...	...	...	...	34,540	22,308	25,688
Newspapers ...	...	...	...	...	605,592	401,340	392,080
Book packets ...	...	...	...	...	325,728	354,042	191,046
Parcels ...	...	...	...	...	41,080	33,370	34,996
Registered articles ...	...	...	...	...	50,284	37,154	32,916

Despatched.

					1927.	1926.	1925.
Letters ...	...	...	...	...	2,167,464	1,464,696	1,108,226
Postcards ...	...	...	...	...	51,376	33,540	32,276
Newspapers ...	...	...	...	...	108,316	54,574	49,400
Book packets ...	...	...	...	...	174,720	124,418	126,680
Parcels ...	...	...	...	...	8,216	6,162	8,944
Registered articles ...	...	...	...	...	53,924	34,984	29,900

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice is administered by the High Court of Northern Rhodesia, and by the Magistrates' and Native Commissioners' Courts subject to appeal to and review by the High Court.

During the year the High Court dealt with 78 civil matters, as against 89 in the preceding year, and heard eight actions and one appeal. Two petitions in bankruptcy were presented. Sessions were held at Mazabuka, Lusaka, Broken Hill, and Ndola in September, and at Fort Jameson in October.

Twenty-five criminal cases came before the Court, exclusive of reviews of judgments in the lower Courts: these latter numbered 333, of which 178 were confirmed, 29 quashed, 74 altered, and 11 cases sent back, 8 being subsequently approved and 3 quashed; in the remaining 41 cases the accused were bound over.

The Criminal Investigation and the Town and District branches of the Northern Rhodesia Police were involved in 4,773 prosecutions as compared with 3,715 in 1926. In addition to these, many cases are tried at stations where there are no police; nor do these figures include the large number of prosecutions for offences against the Native Tax Law. This increase of prosecutions is attributed to (a) increased police activity on account of the growing efficiency of the Force and partly owing to the opening of new stations; and (b) to the growth of townships and settled areas with resultant temptation and opportunities for crime.

The following figures show the convictions for the more serious crimes, corresponding figures being given for 1926 for the purposes of comparison:—

	1927.	1926.
Murder	9	39
Manslaughter	7	8
Arson	34	7
Forgery	14	13
Perjury	Nil	10
Housebreaking	50	21
Burglary	3	8
Rape, attempted rape, and assault with intent to rape	4	16
Indecent assault	12	15
Assault occasioning bodily harm ...	92	117

Seven out of the nine sentences of death were commuted to various terms of imprisonment. In the remaining two cases the law took its course.

Of the total number of persons accused of crime 94 per cent. were convicted.

There are five central prisons, at Livingstone, Broken Hill, Fort Jameson, Kasama, and Mongu, and 30 local prisons at out-stations.

During the year, 5,092 persons were committed to prison, 21 of whom were to serve sentences of 5 years or more. The daily average of persons in prison was 754; 25 deaths occurred among the prisoners.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

During the year 1927-28 the sum of £42,222 was spent on construction. Buildings which were completed during this period included three new houses in Livingstone and seven at out-stations.

A start was made with a much-needed drainage scheme in Lusaka township while a new wing at Livingstone Hospital, a new hospital at Fort Jameson, 5 new houses at Livingstone, Lusaka, and Broken Hill, and the Beit Hostel for Girls at Choma were started and will be finished in 1928.

The Public Works Department is being re-organised and placed under the control of a Director. Until recently it has been run in conjunction with the Department of Mines and it is anticipated that the re-organisation will result in greater efficiency.

The Department of Roads is a branch of the Public Works Department but its activities are dealt with under "Communications" in Chapter V.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The Government maintains European hospitals at Livingstone, Lusaka, Broken Hill, Fort Jameson, and Kasama. Native hospitals are maintained at these places and also at Mazabuka, Solwezi, Ndola, and Fort Rosebery. In addition to the above many Mission doctors, hospitals, and dispensaries receive annual subsidies from the Government for medical work in native areas.

During the year, 923 Europeans and 7,288 natives were admitted to hospital and there were 27 and 418 deaths respectively, among them. No complete records as to the number of patients treated at out-stations are available for either the European or the native population, though it is estimated that the latter are about 5,000, many of whom were treated for trivial complaints.

The principal diseases treated have been :—

(a) *Sleeping Sickness.*

One European and twenty-two native cases came under treatment, eight of the latter proving fatal; with the exception of the epidemic on the Mwangazi River in the Fort Jameson Sub-District there has been no epidemic manifestation of this disease. Isolated

cases of what is presumed to be sleeping sickness have been reported from various parts of the Luangwa Valley, but the disease is not now prevalent there.

(b) *Malaria and Blackwater Fever.*

The following table gives the number of persons admitted to hospital suffering from malaria and blackwater fever with mortality statistics in each case, figures also being given for 1925 and 1926 :—

Year.	<i>European</i>		<i>Malaria.</i>		<i>Blackwater Fever</i>	
		<i>Population.</i>	<i>Cases.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Cases.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>
1927	...	7,275	272	6	20	5
1926	...	5,581	262	1	21	7
1925	...	4,624	211	6	13	7

(c) *Influenza.*

This has been prevalent over the whole Territory but the incidence shows a decrease on previous years.

(d) *Yaws.*

Results of the treatment of yaws with bismuth and sodium tartrate continue to be satisfactory. This disease is chiefly prevalent in the Kasempa, Kafue, and Luapula areas.

(e) *Leprosy.*

Native Department statistics show that there are 5,218 lepers in the Territory, of whom 3,816 have been notified to the Medical Department. No statistics are available for mortality. A system of voluntary segregation in co-operation with the various Missionary Societies will shortly be commenced and gradually developed in combination with the establishment of treatment centres for early cases.

(f) *Smallpox, Chicken-pox, and Kaffir Pox.*

Outbreaks of these diseases occurred in many parts of the Territory but were for the most part localised. The mortality rate was low.

177,290 persons were vaccinated and, as far as can be ascertained, the results were successful in about 80 per cent. of cases.

(g) *Ankylostomiasis.*

This disease is widely distributed amongst the native population.

(h) *Bilharziasis.*

It is impossible to state with any accuracy to what extent this disease is present. Hospital statistics show an infection-rate of about 0.5 per cent. of those examined. It is hoped that, in time,

circumstances will permit of a more comprehensive survey of this and other diseases and will facilitate the institution of intensive treatment.

(i) *Tuberculosis.*

There is no indication of the distribution or extent of tuberculosis. That the degree of infection is low is indicated by native hospital and out-patient returns and by the medical examination of large numbers of natives for various purposes.

The general health of the European population was good. The following tables show the vital statistics (European) for 1927 and previous years :—

	1927.	1926.	1925.
Number of deaths	72	62	63
Death rate per 1,000	9.89	11.1	13.7
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	18	7	15
Death rate per 1,000 of births in year	125	49.3	108

144 children were born, of whom 70 were males and 74 females, which represents a crude birth-rate of 20 per 1,000 as compared with 25.4 per 1,000 in 1926.

The native population is estimated at 1,237,486. There is no system of birth or death registration possible at present and consequently no figures are available from which vital statistics may be obtained.

Infantile mortality is known to be high and has been estimated to be between 40 per cent. and 50 per cent. of children born.

IX.—EDUCATION.

European Education.

There are four schools providing secondary education up to Standard VII at Livingstone, Mazabuka, Lusaka, and Broken Hill. A mixed boarding establishment is attached to the school at Mazabuka, with accommodation for 25 children.

Five schools providing primary education up to Standard V exist at Silver Rest, Mulendema, Chilongolo, Lubombo, and Fort Jameson.

During 1927 three small aided schools were also open.

Twenty-nine teachers were employed in the schools. The total enrolment at the close of the school year 1927 was 480 (252 boys and 228 girls), an increase of 63 over the figure for 1926 and 83 over that of 1925.

Native Education.

The education of natives in Northern Rhodesia is at present carried on almost entirely by the Missionary Societies, the Government making some grants in aid and exercising such supervision as is possible through the Director of Native Education, to assist whom an Inspector has recently been appointed. The most pressing requirement is the training of native teachers and instructors without whom any satisfactory attempt at the education of the native population is impossible. This fact is realised by the Missionary Societies who, encouraged by the grants being made, are endeavouring to bring out more trained European educationists as members of their staffs. Generally the progress made at village schools has not been encouraging, but, with the fuller provision of qualified native teachers and sympathetic visitation of mission schools by trained European educationists, it is hoped that better results will ensue.

The chief educational event of the year was the meeting of the General Missionary Conference of Northern Rhodesia which took place at Livingstone in July and was followed by meetings of the Advisory Board on Native Education. The Conference now includes all the fifteen Missionary Societies operating in Northern Rhodesia, and among visitors who contributed greatly to the value of its deliberations were Dr. Loram and Canon Spanton. The matters discussed by the Advisory Board included the provisional code for village and station schools, the draft for a revised Native Schools Ordinance, the system on which grants-in-aid of educational work should be made, the education of half-caste children, the registration and certification of native teachers, and the adoption of certain vernaculars for school purposes. Finally, it considered various ways of spending any grants which might be forthcoming in aid of native education or native welfare from the Beit Trustees or from any other sources, intimation having been received from one of the Trustees of the Beit Bequest that funds might be available shortly for such purposes.

The two projects finally recommended to the Trustees by the Government were (1) the establishment of an Agricultural School and of a Jeanes School for training visiting teachers at Mazabuka, and (2) a Native Training Institution in North-Eastern Rhodesia which should include a department for training native health agents, sanitary inspectors, and medical orderlies. It is not yet known whether the Trustees will support these projects. In any case it is hoped that progress will be made with the Jeanes School on a small scale.

It is regretted that the welfare scheme for the natives of Broken Hill, to which reference was made in last year's report, has met with no success, probably owing to its being too ambitious, and has been postponed until the Mine Authorities are prepared to move in the matter and facilities exist.

On the other hand it is pleasing to note that the School of Agriculture at the Dutch Reformed Church at Magwero, in the Fort Jameson District, has continued to do most useful work and has been well reported on by visiting officers and that, generally, efforts made by the various Missionary Societies are being well supported and are productive of improvement in native standards.

The Native Schools (Amendment) Ordinance, passed in December, 1927, was in the main a re-enactment of the Native Schools Proclamation, 1921. The main objects of the amendments were to do away with the ambiguity of the terms "teaching" and "preaching" and to distinguish in the definitions between schools and what are now classified as sub-schools. This will make it possible to obtain a more accurate idea from Mission returns of the amount and quality of the educational work being done by the various Societies.

In the continued absence of an inspectorate, Government supervision for the year has had again to be confined to such visits to Mission Stations as the Director of Native Education was able to make. One Missionary Educationist made a tour of the Missions in his area at the request of the Department and submitted an interesting report.

The following figures of expenditure from Government funds are indicative of the increasing interest and progress in provision of education for the native population:—

	£
1924-25 	348
1925-26 	3,994
1926-27 	6,603
1927-28 (estimated) 	8,519
1928-29 (estimated) 	9,110

which figures do not include contributions from the Barotse Fund.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEYS.

During 1927, 194 enquiries regarding land settlement in Northern Rhodesia have been received: from residents in the Territory (136), United Kingdom (7), Southern Rhodesia (13), Union of South Africa (30), Kenya Colony (1), Nyasaland (1), South America (1), and Belgian Congo (5). In addition to the above, 133 enquiries were dealt with for surveyed plots at sidings and townships. 43,292 acres were alienated under permits of occupation as new holdings, the total purchase price being £8,255. Forty-six titles to farms were issued during the year in respect of 164,428 acres and forty titles for forty-nine township plots and two titles to small farms in the Livingstone area, comprising 43 acres. Thirty-eight leases were issued for forty-five township plots with option to

purchase, the total purchase price being £5,000, two-thirds of which has been paid on issue of the lease. Sixty-one other leases were issued for small areas. The amount received in respect of timber royalty was £2,710, which is mainly due to the increased activity of the Zambesi Saw Mills, as compared with £2,350 17s. 6d. in 1926.

During the year a lengthy and satisfactory programme of field surveys was carried out which included surveys, in all parts of the Territory, of several hundred farms, township plots, etc., road traverses, ground controls for aerial survey of townships of Broken Hill, Lusaka, and Livingstone, and a special survey for the Tanganyika District Native Reserves Commission which was carried out by a junior surveyor loaned for the purpose.

Resident Government surveyors are now stationed at Lusaka, Broken Hill, Fort Jameson, and Kasama, which will result in increased efficiency at less cost owing to the great saving in time and expenses of journeys involved when work has to be done in these areas.

The Aircraft Operating Company, Limited, has been occupied in aerial survey work for mining companies in Northern Rhodesia and arrangements have been made with the company for surveys on behalf of the Government as follows:—

- (1) Zambesi River, and its tributaries the Kabompo and Lungwe Bungu.
- (2) Township surveys of Livingstone, Mazabuka, Lusaka, and Broken Hill.
- (3) Mapping from oblique photographs of a portion of the Rhodesia-Congo Border.

Two International boundary surveys have been carried out during the year and are expected to be completed in 1929 or 1930. The first of these is the demarcation of an actual line between Northern Rhodesia and the Belgian Congo and is being undertaken by an International Commission.

The second is the demarcation of part of the boundary line between Northern Rhodesia and the Nyasaland Protectorate, a distance of approximately 130 miles.

XI.—LABOUR.

(a) *Within the Territory.*

The continued activity in mining operations in the Territory has provided Northern Rhodesia natives with a labour market comparatively close to their homes and, generally speaking, the response has been satisfactory. Northern Rhodesia mines offer wages and conditions of housing, feeding, and general attention which compare

very favourably with the extra-territorial labour centres which compete for the Territory's labour. Unfortunately, farm work has continued to be unpopular and it would appear that this is largely due to the fact that wages and general conditions are not so satisfactory as in other labour fields. The impression appears prevalent amongst the farmers that the remedy for the shortage of labour from which they suffer lies in Government action along the lines of a Pass Law but it is difficult to see how the institution of a Pass Law would lead the native to offer his services to an employer whose conditions of employment did not appeal to him, though it would serve a useful purpose in discouraging deserters. As was remarked in the Report for 1925 a change of outlook is necessary, and it is only by their own efforts in improving general conditions of labour that agricultural employers will attract labourers to their farms. Those farmers who have realised this fact, and they are not a few, have little or no difficulty in obtaining labour.

Carriers are becoming increasingly difficult to obtain and will soon be impossible except in the remoter parts of the Territory where motor transport is unknown.

Wages have risen slightly at labour centres but vary throughout the Territory. The raw labourer gets but 5s. a month in some of the more remote districts, while he can earn as much as 18s. or more for long contracts on the mines or with railway contracts.

During the year an attempt has been made to estimate the labour done by the native population and the figures obtained show that the adult taxable males of the Territory, who number 248,948, have averaged a little over 2½ months' work each in Northern Rhodesia during the year.

Among the various industries, agriculture appears to have absorbed most labour (192,750 man months), while mining is second (113,917 man months), the total being estimated at 573,398 man months.

(b) *Without the Territory.*

Three labour recruiting agencies for other territories have been at work in the Territory, details of their attestations, etc., for 1926 and 1927 being as under.

<i>Recruiting Agent.</i>	<i>Recruited.</i>		<i>Repatriated.</i>	
	1927.	1926.	1927.	1926.
Rhodesia Native Labour Bureau (Southern Rhodesia).	4,718	4,882	5,533	7,104
R. W. Yule (Congo Mines)	6,153	4,609	3,774	6,376
G. H. Lobb (Tanganyika Territory Plantations)	230	506	383	—
Totals	11,101	9,997	9,690	13,480

These recruiting organisations are subject to conditions which ensure that natives recruited by them will not only be well looked after on their journey to and from their place of work, and during the time spent there, but also will receive a certain proportion of their wages on return to their homes. In deferred pay the agencies paid out in 1927 the sum of £45,091 16s. 2d.

In addition to natives proceeding to work outside the Territory under the aegis of one of the recruiting agencies, it is estimated that some 31,500 proceeded on their own. Thus it would appear that natives of Northern Rhodesia worked about 300,000 man months outside the Territory, in addition to the 573,398 man months worked in the Territory.

When due allowance is made for the time spent in essential work in their home villages, and the time spent going to and from the labour centres (often as much as two months), the fact that Northern Rhodesian able-bodied males have averaged $3\frac{1}{2}$ months per year in work for European enterprise can only be regarded as most satisfactory.

XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

During the year under review three sessions of the Legislative Council were held, viz., on the 11th February, 1927, 8th July, 1927, and 25th November, 1927, respectively.

Twenty-nine Ordinances in all were passed, of which the more important were:—

The Railways Ordinance, 1927, which provides for the setting up of a railway commission in order to attain uniformity throughout the various railway companies operating in this Territory, Southern Rhodesia, and Bechuanaland Protectorate;

The European Officers' Pensions Ordinance, 1927, bringing this Territory into line with regard to pensions regulations with the other East African Dependencies;

The Motor Traffic Ordinance, 1927, which provides for the control and licensing of motor-cars;

The Vehicles and Roads Consolidation Ordinance, 1927, which removes anomalies formerly existing and brings the law on this subject up to date; and

The Municipal Corporations Ordinance, 1927, which affords facilities for the creation and constitution of municipalities in the Territory.

As a result of the East African Law Officers' Conference, 1926, reciprocal arrangements have been made with other Dependencies in Africa and elsewhere for the exchange of local enactments. By this means a valuable library of Colonial Legislation is being accumulated.

G. A. S. NORTHCOTE,
Chief Secretary.

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No. 1411.

FIJI.

REPORT FOR 1927.

*(For Report for 1925 see No. 1299 (Price 1s.) and for
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FIJI.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1927.

PREFATORY NOTE.

Geographical.

The Colony of Fiji is situated in the Southern Pacific Ocean and lies between latitude 15° and 22° south, and between longitude 177° west and 175° east.

The Fijian Group is comprised of about 250 islands of varying sizes from the island of Vitilevu, which covers 4,053 square miles to mere rocks measuring a few yards in circumference. About 80 islands are inhabited. Other large islands besides Vitilevu, are Vanualevu (2,128 square miles), Taveuni (166 square miles), and Kadavu (165 square miles). The total area of the Colony (including the islands of Rotuma) is 7,083 square miles, or nearly the size of Wales. Suva, the capital, is situated on the island of Vitilevu, and is distant 1,743 miles from Sydney, New South Wales, and 1,140 miles from Auckland, New Zealand.

The islands of Rotuma lie between 12° and 15° south and 175° and 180° east, and are a dependency of Fiji.

The whole Group itself is situated midway between the Tongan, or Friendly, Islands and the French Colony of New Caledonia. The largest island, Vitilevu, measures about 96 miles from east to west, and about 63 miles from north to south, while the island of Vanualevu, situated north-east of Vitilevu, is 114 miles in length and averages in breadth some 26 miles. Other islands of economic importance are Taveuni, Kadavu, and the smaller islands of Rabi, and the Yasawa, Lomaiviti, and Lau Groups.

The islands of Fiji owe their origin in part to volcanic upheaval. There are, however, no active volcanoes in the Colony, but several of the high mountains, as for instance, Nabukelevu, on Kadavu, and the summit of the island of Taveuni were formidable craters in past times. In several places throughout the islands hot springs are met with, those best known being situated at Savu Savu on the island of Vanualevu, on the Waidina River, north of Suva, and on several of the islands of the Lomaiviti Group.

The highest altitude reached in Fiji is Mount Victoria, which rises to a height of 4,550 feet and is situated at the north-eastern extremity of the main mountain system of Vitilevu. Other mountains worthy of mention on the same island are Mount Pickering (3,550 feet), Muanivatu (4,000 feet), Mount Evans

(4,020 feet), and Korobasabasaga (3,960 feet). The highest peak on Vanualevu rises to 3,437 feet and on Taveuni to 4,040 feet.

Most of the islands of the Colony are practically surrounded by coral reefs between which and the shore there is provided a well-protected waterway.

Historical.

The islands of the Colony were discovered by the Dutch navigator, Abel Jansen Tasman, when exploring the South Seas, in 1643. He named the Group "Prins Wilhelm's Eylanden," which the inhabitants collectively termed "Viti." Neighbouring Tongans, as well as other nations, erroneously designated the islands as Fiji, and it is by this name that the Colony is now known to all except its native inhabitants. The islands were only nominally known until visited about a century afterwards by D'Urville and Wilks, Captain Cook, who merely sighted Vatoa, or Turtle Island, Captain Bligh, who twice passed through the southern portion of the Group, and Captain Wilson, whose vessel the "Duff" was nearly lost on the reef of Taveuni. These navigators added little, however, save second-hand information to the common stock of knowledge concerning the people. It is recounted that, after the mutiny of his sailors in the "Bounty," Captain Bligh, on passing through the Yasawa Group in a boat from his ship, was espied and pursued by natives of the island of Waya. He again passed through other parts of the Group when in command of H.M.S. "Province" in 1792.

Towards the close of the eighteenth century and the beginning of the nineteenth Fiji began to be visited by vessels from the East Indies, which came in search of sandalwood and bêche-de-mer for the Chinese market.

The inhabitants at that time, and indeed for many years afterwards, were regarded as ferocious savages, and in dealing with them traders had to exercise great caution. Several of the crews of these vessels, however, took up their residence on shore, and they may be regarded as having been the first white immigrants.

About the year 1808 there was wrecked on the reef off the island of Nairai the American brig "Eliza," with 40,000 dollars from the River Plate. The greater part of the crew escaped, but two of them took passage in native canoes which happened at the time to be in the vicinity of the wreck. One landed at Bau and the other at Verata. The former, a Swede named Charles Savage, acquired great ascendancy in the kingdom of Bau, where he taught the natives the use of fire-arms, thus affording them a considerable advantage in intertribal warfare. Other foreigners, for a similar reason, soon acquired a welcome in the several states which were then struggling for supremacy. An Irishman named Conner attained in Rewa a similar position to that of Savage in Bau.

Savage died in March, 1814, near the island of Vanualevu, where he carried on a war with the natives for the purpose of procuring a cargo of sandalwood for an English trading vessel the "Hunter" of Calcutta. Together with some of his crew he was killed and eaten, his bones being converted into needles and distributed amongst the people as a memento of victory. Conner's fate was less tragic in character. He paid less heed to the affairs of state, and even when, after the death of his royal patron, misfortune overtook him he was able to resort to the proverbial humour of his race and preserve to some extent the good will of the Rewa natives by the narration of tales for their amusement. It was upon this faculty that he depended for a livelihood rather than upon the rearing of pigs and fowls for barter with the people.

The first missionaries to arrive in Fiji came from Tonga in October, 1835. They commenced their labours, at a time when the political state of Fiji was unknown, at Lakeba in the Lau or Eastern Group, which was a vassal state, and by their attention to these lesser people they provoked the jealousy of the chiefs of the sovereign state of Cakaudrove, who lived in Somosomo. Later, when at the last-named village the work of Christianisation began the chiefs continued to oppose the spread of the new doctrine by all means in their power. Similarly, when the missionaries established themselves at Rewa, and at Viwa, which lies close to Bau, they experienced the same opposition. The whole influence of the Bauans was exercised against the work of the mission, and it has been suggested that many atrocities were committed at Bau to prove to the missionaries operating from Viwa how little Bau was influenced by the religious change proceeding in other parts of the Group. Finally, in 1854, King Cakobau adopted Christianity, and heathenism was conquered. Cannibalism among his people had been one of their institutions; it was interwoven in the elements of society and it was defeated only after long and hazardous missionary effort.

In 1858 the United States corvette "Vandalia" arrived in Levuka, and the Commander, Captain Sinclair, preferred claims against Cakobau, as King of Fiji, amounting to 45,000 dollars. Cakobau induced Captain Sinclair to allow him 12 months in which to meet the demand. Interviews in respect of these claims between Cakobau and the British Consul led to an offer of the cession of the islands to Great Britain, on the condition that the American claims were paid by the British Government, for which payment, as a direct equivalent, certain land, "if required," was to be granted in fee simple, besides the general sovereignty of the whole Group. Subsequently, on the 14th December, 1859, the chiefs of Fiji "Acknowledged, ratified and renewed the Cession of Fiji to Great Britain made on the 12th of October, 1858." The offer was declined by Her Britannic Majesty's Government in 1862.

About this time the demand for cotton, arising from the American Civil War, led to an influx of Europeans into Fiji for the purpose of cotton cultivation, and in June, 1871, the settlers endeavoured to establish a settled form of government with the principal Bauan Chief, Cakobau, as King of Fiji. A constitution was agreed upon and a parliament was elected, but it was not long before the parliament and the Government drifted into mutual hostility, and latterly the Ministry governed without the aid of a parliament.

In both Australia and England the annexation of Fiji had been urged since 1869, and in August, 1873, the Earl of Kimberley commissioned Commodore Goodenough, commanding the squadron on the Australian Station, and Mr. E. L. Layard, then Her Majesty's Consul in Fiji, to investigate and report on the matter. The Commissioners, on the 21st of March, 1874, reported on the offer of the sovereignty of the islands from the chiefs, with the assent of the Europeans, but on certain terms which were not acceptable, and Sir Hercules Robinson, then Governor of New South Wales, was despatched to Fiji in September, 1874, to negotiate.

The Mission was completely successful, and the sovereignty of the islands was ceded to the Crown by Cakobau, the Chief of Bau, Maafu, who was the Chief of the Lau Confederacy, and the other principal chiefs, in a Deed of Cession, dated the 10th of October, 1874. A Charter was shortly afterwards issued by Her Majesty Queen Victoria creating the islands a separate Colony and providing for their government as a Crown Colony.

Constitution.

The Constitution is regulated by Letters Patent of the 31st of January, 1914, as amended by Letters Patent of the 20th of July, 1916. The question of further amendment is under consideration.

The Governor is advised by an Executive Council, which at present consists of the Colonial Secretary and the Attorney-General as ex-officio members, three other official members, and two nominated unofficial members. The Legislative Council, as constituted by the Letters Patent, consists of the Governor, not more than twelve nominated members (of whom eleven must be persons holding public offices in the Colony), seven elected members, and two native members.

The Secretary of State has intimated his decision to advise His Majesty the King to amend the Letters Patent, to provide for the election of three representatives of the Indian community; for Fijian representation by nomination to be similarly increased to three; for the number of the European elected members to be reduced from seven to six; and for the number of official members to be increased so as to preserve the official majority.

The English Common Law and the Statutes of general application which were in force in England in the year 1875, when the Colony obtained a local legislature, extend to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable, and are subject to modifications by Colonial Ordinances.

Local Administration.

Under the Municipal Institutions Ordinance of 1909 the administration of the towns of Suva and Levuka is in the hands of Municipal Councils elected by the ratepayers. The Municipal Councils have jurisdiction over sanitation and public health, markets, slaughter-houses, traffic regulations, building construction, and the control of places and streets within the towns. Their revenues are mainly derived from Government grants, licences, and rates. The Central Board of Health, which is composed of official and unofficial members appointed by the Governor, administers the Public Health Ordinance of 1911 and is empowered to make regulations in regard to the carrying out of the Ordinance. The Colony is divided into urban and rural sanitary districts, in which local authorities, subject to the control of the Central Board of Health, administer the Public Health Ordinance in their respective districts.

The Board of Education, appointed by the Governor, directs the policy in regard to education and is authorized to pass by-laws on all matters pertaining to education within the Colony.

The Central Road Board, composed of official and unofficial members, is responsible for the maintenance of existing roads and for new construction, and is assisted by Local Road Boards appointed in each district.

Ordinance No. 4 of 1923 provides for a Fire Brigade service for the town of Suva. A suitable station has been erected and up-to-date plant imported, including a latest pattern Dennis turbine motor engine.

The control of the Fire Brigade is vested in a Board of Fire Commissioners.

Languages.

English is spoken by the 4,500 Europeans resident in the Colony. The estimated Fijian population is 90,000. Many native dialects are spoken but the majority of Fijian male adults and a large proportion of the women are also acquainted with the Bauan dialect, which has been adopted as the official Fijian language. In Rotuma, a dependency of Fiji, with a population of over 2,000, an entirely different language is spoken, which contains words found in the languages of all the adjacent island groups including Japanese. Among the Indians, who number 70,000, a form of

Hindustani which pays little attention to grammar is most generally used, although Tamil, Telegu, Malayalam, and Canarese languages or dialects are also spoken by former immigrants from the Madras Province and their families, but Hindustani is spoken by the majority of these as a second language, and it is probable that in course of time a form of Hindustani will become the common language of the Indian community in Fiji. The Chinese population of over 1,000 speaks Cantonese.

Currency.

The only coin in circulation in the Colony is British sterling which with the Government currency notes issue is the legal tender of the Colony.

Weights and Measures.

British weights and measures are standard in the Colony.

I.—GENERAL.

His Excellency the Governor, Sir Eyre Hutson, K.C.M.G., proceeded on leave of absence on the 12th November, 1927, and Mr. A. W. Seymour, V.D., who had assumed duty as Colonial Secretary on the 20th January, 1927, acted as Governor until the end of the year.

There were a number of important changes of personnel in 1927, and on the 28th May, Mr. J. R. Pearson, C.I.E., who had recently retired from the Indian Civil Service, was appointed Secretary for Indian Affairs.

Although the total trade of the Colony during the year 1927 shows no improvement over the previous year—the totals for the two years in fact being almost identical—the figures for imports and exports were far more satisfactory, inasmuch as the exports exceeded the imports by just on three-quarters of a million pounds. This was due partly to the fact that at the end of 1926 importing houses were carrying unusually large stocks, and partly to the largely increased tonnage of sugar exported. Unlike the previous year the rainfall in the sugar-producing areas was unusually heavy resulting in an exceptional crop but with a low percentage of cane sugar. So large was the crop that the crushing season did not end until the end of January, 1928. As a result of the conditions in 1927, the growth of the young cane was accelerated and it is probable that the crop for 1928 will be larger than has been cut for many years. It may be remarked that of recent years the tendency is more and more for Fiji sugar to go to Canada instead of New Zealand as in the past. During 1927 over 50 per cent. of the sugar exported went to Canada.

The Colony's financial position was again more than maintained, and the year's figures show another handsome surplus of revenue over expenditure, amounting in 1927 to £51,635.

Agriculture, referred to in greater detail in the report under its appropriate head, continues to be the economic backbone of the Colony. Sugar-cane is the most important crop, after which come in order of importance coconuts and bananas, dairying, cattle-breeding, and the growing of cotton, pine-apples, maize, and rice, the last two named for local consumption, are also of some importance. Sugar, copra, and bananas have been produced for many years, whereas cotton growing is a recent revival, and pine-apple canning and dairying are recent innovations, dating approximately from 1918, when sugar production passed through a critical period and the Colony was faced with the possibility of having to diversify its agricultural products on short notice.

The campaign to control the coconut pest, the purple moth *Letuana iridescens*, appears to have met with complete success, and confidence has been restored among planters, bankers, and business firms generally interested in the copra industry. Owing to the introduction of parasites from the Federated Malay States and Java the moth outbreaks have disappeared almost entirely. The final position will not be known for at least another year, but it is now probable that sufficient parasites have been introduced to effect a permanent control of the pest. In view of the fact that, apart from cane areas, Vanualevu, Taveuni, and the Lau Group depend primarily upon copra, the results of this campaign are of outstanding importance to all the copra planters and to a large proportion of the native race. A completely successful issue to the campaign will not only permit coconuts to be grown on the largest island, Vitilevu, but will also remove the threat of possible disaster to many islands in the South Pacific, the inhabitants of which depend to a large extent upon the coconut for an existence.

The new offices of the Agricultural Department were completed during the year, and the technical and accounting staff of the Department strengthened.

The increase in the tourist traffic was maintained. The number of passengers arriving at all Fiji ports from overseas in 1925 was 2,437, in 1926 3,722, and in 1927 3,980. Deducting 20 per cent. for Fiji residents returning from overseas, a total of approximately 3,200 appears as the number of visitors to the Colony during the year, an increase of some 1,500 on the figure for 1925.

The growth in the tourist traffic is due to increased shipping facilities, the advertising which the Colony received at the Wembley and Dunedin Exhibitions, the opening of a bowling green, and other increased facilities for sport in Suva, and the issue of

advertising matter by the shipping companies and the local tourist bureau.

The third annual Fiji Agricultural, Pastoral, Horticultural, and Industrial Show, held in October, 1927, eclipsed all previous efforts, and warrants the assumption that the Annual Show is now firmly re-established. The entries totalled 1,584, an increase on the previous year of 220 and nearly 600 more than the first Show in 1925. The financial results were satisfactory and a reserve fund of about £400 has placed the Fiji Show Association (as it is now called) in a sound position. There were two new features introduced in 1927 which proved both popular and useful, viz., the Health Department's Exhibit and the Native Section. Both attracted great attention and were most excellent from every point of view. There was a great increase in the Live Stock Section and it is claimed that the Show has been responsible for a marked improvement of the stock in the Colony, many pedigree animals having been imported into Fiji during the past three years. The Show was open for two days and the number of visitors totalled nearly 5,000. The quality of the exhibits all round marked a distinct advance on that of previous Shows and is very encouraging for the future.

The Colony was honoured by its inclusion in the itinerary followed by Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of York on the occasion of their visit to the Commonwealth of Australia for the official opening of the new Parliament Buildings at Canberra. The Royal visitors received an enthusiastic welcome from all races and classes. Native ceremonies of loyalty and respect were performed by Fijian chiefs of the highest rank, and presentations made of articles of native workmanship. A civic reception was arranged by the Mayor of Suva, at which the Duke addressed those assembled, and at an official Ball held at the Grand Pacific Hotel the members of the European community, and the leaders of the Fijian and Indian races, had the honour of presentation to Their Royal Highnesses. The Duke and Duchess, who, in the course of their stay in the Colony, were able to make a brief tour of the country in the neighbourhood of the capital, included in their programme a visit of inspection to the Colonial War Memorial Hospital, and on their departure from the Colony they were graciously pleased to express their appreciation of all the arrangements made for their reception.

In December, the Right Honourable L. S. Amery, Secretary of State for the Colonies and Dominion Affairs, passed through Suva in the course of his journey from Australia to Canada, and spent a few hours in the Colony. He was welcomed by the Mayor at a Civic reception at the Town Hall of Suva, and delivered a speech dealing with the particular problems of the Colony, its trade, and its future development. The Secretary of State also

accepted an Address of Welcome from the Council of the Association of European Civil Servants, and from the Indian Civil Servants, and in the course of a speech in reply to the Address presented by the former body he expressed his pleasure at the opportunity afforded to him of visiting this most distant Colony and effecting personal contact with the members of its Civil Service. In addition, he assured the members of the Service of the close interest of the Colonial Office in the conditions of service in Fiji, and undertook to examine sympathetically proposals for the provision of housing accommodation for officers stationed in Suva and increased passage allowances to officers proceeding to the United Kingdom.

The Colony was also privileged to entertain a number of other visitors during the year, including the Right Honourable S. Bruce, the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia.

During the year, the scheme for the establishment at Suva of a Central Medical School for the training of natives from all the Pacific Islands to be Native Medical Practitioners, who, when qualified, would practise in the various island groups, where medical facilities have been hitherto extremely limited, received the approval of the Secretary of State, and the erection has begun of the necessary buildings.

The question of the revision of the Letters Patent in order to provide for the grant of the franchise on a communal basis to Indian settlers in the Colony, for the election of three Indian representatives to the Legislative Council, and for the reduction by one in the number of elected members of the Council, received attention during the year, and certain Committees were appointed to make preliminary recommendations on these and allied subjects. A Committee was also appointed to examine and report on the question of revising the Customs tariff and the methods of taxation employed in the Colony.

The vital statistics remain satisfactory, the figures showing an all-round increase in the population. The deaths during the year and the percentages of the respective classes of population were as follows :—

Europeans 43, being .96 per cent.; Fijians 2,074, being 2.3 per cent.; Indians 654, being .94 per cent.; Rotumans 82, being 3.63 per cent.

The births were as follows :—

Europeans 111, being 2.48 per cent.; Fijians 2,936, being 3.25 per cent.; Indians 1,926, being 2.78 per cent.; and Rotumans 114, being 5.05 per cent.

1,107 marriages were registered, being at the rate of .63 per cent. of the population.

An interesting comparison of the population at the Census of 24th April, 1921, and of the estimated population at the end of 1927 is appended.

RETURN OF THE POPULATION, and of the MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, and DEATHS.

Class of Population.	Area in square miles		Whites.		Coloured Population.		Total.		Population to the Square Mile.		Persons employed in		Marriages.	Deaths. Number and Rate per 1,000.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Male.	Female.	Agriculture.	Manufactures and Industrial.			Professional and Commercial.
Return of Population as ascertained at the Census of 24th April, 1921.														
Europeans { Fiji ...	7,421	2,274	1,574	7	—	—	3,878	—	0.52	412	379	1,905	—	—
Rotuma { Fiji ...	14	23	—	—	—	—	2,781	—	0.37	144	395	583	—	—
Half-castes { Rotuma ...	—	—	—	—	1,425	29	84,475	—	11.37	2,285*	845*	253*	—	—
Fijians ...	—	—	—	—	44,022	40,453	60,634	—	8.17	19,433	3,179	1,244	—	—
Indians ...	—	—	—	—	37,015	23,619	1,564	—	0.21	335	501	—	—	—
Polynesians ...	—	—	—	—	1,271	293	2,235	—	0.30	—	—	—	—	—
Rotumans ...	—	—	—	—	1,129	1,106	910	—	0.12	129	92	399	—	—
Chinese ...	—	—	—	—	845	65	789	—	0.10	—	9	6	—	—
Others ...	—	—	—	—	431	358	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	7,435	2,297	1,581	—	86,167	67,221	157,266	—	21.16	22,738	5,400	4,390	—	—
Estimated Population at 31st December, 1927.														
Europeans { Fiji ...	—	2,468	1,990	—	—	—	4,458	—	0.60	—	—	—	34	43—9.60
Rotuma { Fiji ...	—	11	11	—	—	—	22	—	0.42	—	—	—	16	23—7.37
Half-castes { Rotuma ...	—	—	—	—	1,597	1,488	3,085	—	12.14	—	—	—	760	2,074—22.98
Fijians ...	—	—	—	—	23	12	35	—	0.27	—	—	—	10	73—36.03
Polynesians ...	—	—	—	—	46,612	43,651	90,263	—	9.34	—	—	—	254	654—9.42
Indians ...	—	—	—	—	1,602	424	2,026	—	161.36	—	—	—	28	82—36.29
Rotumans (Rotuma) ...	—	—	—	—	41,757	27,706	69,463	—	0.15	—	—	—	—	6—5.42
Rotumans ...	—	—	—	—	1,108	1,151	2,259	—	—	—	—	—	5	30—26.81
Chinese ...	—	—	—	—	1,023	83	1,106	—	—	—	—	—	1,107	2,985—17.17
Others ...	—	—	—	—	664	371	1,035	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals Grand Totals	7,435	2,479	2,001	—	94,446	74,910	173,836	—	23.38	—	—	—	1,107	2,985—17.17

* Figures relate to Fijians living in Magisterial Districts apart from Native Villages.

II.—FINANCE.

The progress of the Colony in the realm of finance is shown by the following figures :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>	<i>Assets.</i>	<i>Liabilities.</i>	<i>Excess of Liabilities over Assets.</i>	<i>Excess of Assets over Liabilities.</i>
£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1923	479,982	429,666	565,467	758,632	193,165	—
1924	488,907	451,257	641,067	796,582	155,515	—
1925	550,236	478,174	668,104	751,557	83,453	—
1926	584,515	536,079	750,010	785,027	35,017	—
1927	586,574	534,939	898,491	881,752	—	16,739

The extremely satisfactory recovery of the Colony from the post-war depression, as indicated in the trade statistics and also in the foregoing table, is due, firstly, to drastic retrenchment, secondly, to the revival of the sugar industry, and, thirdly, to the stimulation and introduction of young or new industries.

While the incidence of taxation has been considerably varied, only a slight increase thereof having been introduced, yet not only have very considerable surpluses of revenue been obtained during the last four years but it has also been found possible largely to fortify and extend those Government services which most directly affect the future welfare and prosperity of the Colony.

The excess of liabilities over assets of £243,482 at the end of 1922 was converted by the end of 1927 into a surplus of assets over liabilities of £16,739—an improvement of £260,221 within five years.

The currency in circulation consists of Government notes, and English coins of pre-war fineness. The position of the Currency Note Guarantee Fund is satisfactory, as will be seen from the following :—

Liabilities :—

Notes in circulation	...	...	...	£
				367,399

Assets :—

Gold Reserve (sovereigns)	...	...	...	73,481
Securities (market price at 31st December, 1927)	...	...	...	347,303
Depreciation Fund Investments	...	...	...	25,931

£446,715

Surplus on Values at 31st December, 1927, £79,316.

The transactions of the Currency Commissioners for 1927 produced a net surplus of £13,877, as follows:—

	£	£
Interest on Securities		17,405
Expenses	408	
Statutory Provision for Depreciation Fund	3,120	
		<u>3,528</u>
Surplus		<u>£13,877</u>

The position of the Loan Debt of the Colony is as under:—

	£
(a) Public Works Loan	82,700
(b) Returned Sailors' and Soldiers' Loan ...	8,350
(c) Advances by Imperial Treasury and Crown Agents:—	
(i) for Loan Works	464,506
(ii) for Current Purposes	108,494
	<u>£664,050</u>

Debentures to the value of £62,050 were redeemed during the year, and the indebtedness to the Crown Agents was increased by £82,254.

Banks and Banking Facilities.

Two private banks are operating in the Colony—the Bank of New South Wales, with three establishments, and the Bank of New Zealand, with two. The paid-up capital of the former is £7,423,440, while that of the latter is £6,529,185. The amount of deposits held by the Bank of New South Wales is £1,127,317, and by the Bank of New Zealand £324,016.

In addition, there is a Government Savings Bank, in which, during the year under review, the number of accounts increased from 5,197 to 5,986, while the amount of deposits made during the year increased from £136,417 to £141,686. The total amount of deposits at the end of the year was £5,269 in excess of the amount on deposit at 31st December, 1926.

The amount at credit of depositors on 31st December, 1927, was £153,368, as against which were held:—

	£	£
Securities (market price on 31st December, 1927)	148,924	
		<u>148,924</u>
Surplus		<u>£4,444</u>

The transactions of the Savings Bank for the year 1927 were as follows :—

	£	£
Interest on Investment		6,475
Interest credited to Depositors ...	4,284	
Salaries	930	
Expenses	228	
	<hr/>	5,442
Surplus		<hr/> £1,033 <hr/>

The rate of interest paid to depositors is $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. up to £500, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on deposits exceeding £500 up to a maximum of £1,000.

III.—PRODUCTION.

The year 1927 was unmarked by hurricanes or droughts. Exports of agricultural produce were well up to the average of recent years. In the case of the two most important products of the Colony, namely, cane sugar and copra, the exports were above the average in quantity. The market for Sea Island cotton remained dull and consequently a smaller acreage was planted. If this market does not exhibit a marked improvement, it is possible that the Sea Island type of cotton may disappear from the list of exports from the Colony, but experiments are now being conducted, with every indication of success, to discover a type of cotton suited to the climate of this Colony and to other local conditions and to the demands of buyers in England. The continuation for a second year of the experiment in growing and canning pine-apples had been watched with much local interest and, as the quality of the Fiji product appears to be equal to the best produced elsewhere, there are reasons for anticipating that the experiment will lead to the permanent establishment of this industry within the Colony. A meat cannery, the first to be erected in the Colony, is approaching completion and should exert a stabilising effect on the cattle-raising industry. The experiment in dairying continues to be of interest and, after a not inconsiderable struggle, the three butter factories now in operation appear to be on a sound financial basis. The dairying industry also seems to be definitely established.

Cane Sugar.

For many years cane sugar has been the chief product exported. The exports for the year were well up to the average. Since 1918, when indentured labour was abolished, the industry has undergone a process of reorganisation, in the course of which a peasant tenant system has been introduced. This system is being increasingly

adopted and appears to be meeting with a considerable measure of success.

Sugar exports for the last five years have been :—

							<i>Cwt.</i>
1923	...	...	...	...	...	...	882,160
1924	...	...	...	...	...	...	889,440
1925	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,834,880
1926	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,139,820
1927	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,455,060

Copra.

The amount of copra exported was reduced by the effect of a partial drought in 1926 and by the after effects of successive defoliation caused by the Levuana moth since the year 1922 on Ovalau and adjoining islands. Nevertheless, the exports during the year that has closed were within 1,300 tons of the record output of 1926. During the year, a Copra Improvement Ordinance was enacted as an instrument for effecting a gradual improvement in the quality of the product.

Exports for the last five years have been :—

							<i>Tons.</i>
1923	...	...	...	...	...	...	24,161
1924	...	...	...	...	...	...	23,137
1925	...	...	...	...	...	...	24,133
1926	...	...	...	...	...	...	27,868
1927	...	...	...	...	...	...	26,560

The Levuana Moth.—In 1922 and following years the coconut industry was threatened with extinction on account of the depredations of this insect, and a campaign was commenced in order to find a remedy. Mention of this campaign and the success with which it appears to have met will be found in the general chapter of this report. The trees have now recovered on Ovalau and the adjoining islands and for the first time in five years produced a small amount of copra.

The Coconut Scale.—The insect, a comparatively new arrival in the Colony, responsible for this condition appears to do more damage in Fiji than in the majority of other coconut-producing countries and it has been found necessary to instigate a campaign to check its ravages. In Java and the West Indies several small beetles feed upon this insect and steps have been taken to arrange for the introduction of these beetles to Fiji. A beetle of some promise has now been introduced from Java and certain beetles from the West Indies have been collected and are being brought to the Colony by an entomologist of the Agricultural Department and should arrive early in 1928. It is not of course possible as yet to estimate the degree of success that is likely to result from the introduction of these parasites.

Bananas.

The banana industry has been in an unsatisfactory condition for several years principally as a result of the loss of the Australian market that followed the imposition by the Commonwealth of a tariff of one penny per lb. Small shipments of choice fruit are now being sent to Australia, but a revival of large shipments is unlikely unless the tariff is reduced or abolished. Shipments to the only other market, New Zealand, have remained at about the same level for the last three years with a slight decline in 1927. There is little prospect of important expansion in this market unless a more frequent steamship service can be inaugurated. With a view to ensuring the retention of a permanent footing in the New Zealand market a campaign has been begun to clean up and replant the native plantations, which are estimated to supply over 90 per cent. of the fruit exported.

Exports for the past five years have been :—

							<i>Bunches.</i>
1923	...	...	...	...	...	...	406,607
1924	...	...	...	...	...	...	467,845
1925	...	...	...	...	...	...	565,623
1926	...	...	...	...	...	...	564,397
1927	...	...	...	...	...	...	544,359

Cotton.

Production of Sea Island cotton since the revival of the industry has been :—

1923	...	...	101 bales of approximately 350 lb.
1924	...	...	180 " " " " "
1925	...	...	136 " " " " "
1926	...	...	919 " " " " "
1927	...	...	404 " " " " "

In the first three years specified very high prices were received, but these have now declined to such an extent that the crop barely pays to grow. As already stated, several other varieties have been under test at the Cotton Experimental Station and two of these, both of the Kidney type, show promise of being more lucrative than the Sea Island variety in the present condition of the market. Cotton growing is not yet an established industry in the Colony and much will depend upon the performances of the varieties now under test.

Dairying.

In 1922 and prior to the development of this industry, butter imports were valued at £11,897. The three butter factories now produce not only practically all the butter required for local consumption but also a small margin for export, the export figures for 1927 being 484 cwt., valued at £3,615. The annual value of butter produced can now be estimated at certainly not less than £16,000 and

possibly nearer £20,000. There have been many difficulties to contend with, but these are becoming fewer. .

The Pine-apple Experiment.

The second year has now concluded of the operation of the agreement between the Government and Canadian Cannery, Limited, for the growing and canning of pine-apples for export. Many favourable comments have been made in New Zealand, Canada, and London on the quality of the product and, as the costs of production appear to be satisfactory, there now appears to be a definite prospect that the industry may become firmly established. Two hundred and twelve tons of fruit were tinned in 1927 as compared with 125 tons in 1926.

Rice.

The Government Rice Mill continues to show a profit, but the volume of business done is small, largely because many East Indians prefer to mill their own paddy by the primitive methods traditional among them. Three smaller mills are also in operation, two being owned by East Indians. In 1926 there was practically no paddy grown on account of the prolonged drought and as the rice mill year closes on 30th June the lack of paddy is reflected in rice mill accounts of the year.

The Government Rice Mill has been in operation since 1922 and has produced 2,897 tons of rice as follows :—

								<i>Tons.</i>
1922	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	293
1923	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	728
1924	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	811
1925	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	402
1926	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	480
1927	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	183

The total consumption of rice in the Colony is known to be at least 2,400 tons and is probably considerably in excess of that figure.

Meat Cannery.

The meat cannery on the Tova estate has been practically completed and will commence production early in 1928. A large amount of capital has been expended in developing the estate and in erecting a small but efficient meat works, and it will be greatly to the advantage of the Colony as a whole if this venture meets with the success it deserves.

Mining Operations.

Prospecting operations continue on a small scale. No discovery of minerals in payable quantities was reported during the year.

Only four new prospecting licences were issued covering an aggregate area of 1,640 acres. Nineteen new Miners' Rights and two renewals of Miners' Rights were applied for and issued.

Forestry.

No new timber concessions were approved. Consideration of such applications as were received was deferred until the report of the Forestry expert who investigated the forests of the Colony during the year should have been received and its recommendations considered.

Production of milled timber showed little increase. The Fiji Kauri Timber and Land Company's mill situated in the mountains at Nadarivatu is still restricted in its output on account of transport difficulties. Although the main roadway down the Nadarivatu escarpment has been improved at the sharp bends, which enables motor-lorries to be used with some degree of safety, the problem of devising some more economical method of transporting sawn timber to the coast still awaits a solution. Messrs. J. T. Tuck and Sons of Buca Bay, Vanualevu Island, have been unable materially to increase their production.

The Pacific Timbers Limited, whose mill is situated on the Dreketi River, Vanualevu Island, produced but little timber during the year. It was decided that the quantity of timber available did not justify the construction of tramways, and it is reported that this Company intends to construct logging-ways and to employ motor-tractors on these for the hauling of timber to the mill.

Practically the whole of the milled timber produced in the Colony was consumed locally; the quantity exported being only 1,390 superficial feet, valued at £33.

Mr. J. P. Mead, Conservator of Forests, Sarawak, arrived on the 30th December, 1926, for the purpose of investigating and reporting on the timber resources of this Colony. Mr. Mead carried out his investigations in the main islands of Vitilevu and Vanualevu and on their completion left for England on the 16th June. It had been suggested that the climatic conditions during the early months of the year would render it advisable that Mr. Mead's arrival should be deferred until April or May, but circumstances relating to his service in the Government of Sarawak did not allow delay. Mr. Mead's comprehensive and valuable report on the forests of the Colony of Fiji was completed in England in August and transmitted to this Government for printing and is now under consideration.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The total trade of the Colony in 1927 amounted to £3,220,677 of which the value of imports was £1,223,303 and of exports £1,997,374. The value of imports was less than that for 1926 by £257,642, while the value of exports exceeded that for 1926 by £256,947. Although in 1926 the value of exports only exceeded the value of imports by £259,482, in 1927 the balance of trade in favour of the Colony amounted to £774,071.

The following figures show the trade of the Colony for the last five years :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Imports.</i> £	<i>Exports.</i> £	<i>Total Trade.</i> £
1923	989,060	1,553,239	2,542,299
1924	1,066,594	1,508,934	2,575,528
1925	1,271,135	2,156,257	3,427,392
1926	1,480,945	1,740,427	3,221,372
1927	1,223,303	1,997,374	3,220,677

During the period the value of imports from the principal countries was as follows :—

<i>Country.</i>	<i>1923.</i> £	<i>1924.</i> £	<i>1925.</i> £	<i>1926.</i> £	<i>1927.</i> £
United Kingdom ...	279,971	269,231	332,080	444,047	316,824
Australia	412,199	438,715	576,260	607,171	528,740
Canada	54,824	59,067	42,128	59,633	51,105
India... ..	27,925	39,643	25,423	48,161	45,253
New Zealand ...	103,855	127,837	117,413	142,225	124,775
Japan	16,816	14,065	13,314	30,067	13,454
United States ...	75,298	103,356	143,089	123,574	122,470

The preceding figures show that during the years mentioned the proportion of total import trade done with the several countries was as under :—

<i>Country.</i>	<i>1923.</i> %	<i>1924.</i> %	<i>1925.</i> %	<i>1926.</i> %	<i>1927.</i> %
United Kingdom ...	23·31	25·24	26·12	29·99	25·90
Australia	41·68	41·13	45·33	41·00	43·22
Canada	5·54	5·54	3·30	4·03	4·18
India	2·82	3·72	2·00	3·25	3·70
New Zealand ...	10·50	11·98	9·24	9·60	10·20
Japan	1·70	1·32	1·05	2·03	1·09
United States ...	7·61	9·69	11·26	8·34	10·02

Imports.

The United Kingdom is the main source of our general imports.

These cover practically every class of goods and include sugar machinery, steam and oil engines, railway track, canning machinery, steel and metal bars and sheets, paints and oils, cement, hardware, enamelled ware, cutlery, clothing, piece goods, preserves, etc., but no trade is done in power or illuminating oils nor food-stuffs other than a small quantity of canned goods.

Although the value of imports from the United Kingdom fell from £444,047 in 1926 to £316,824 in 1927, this must not be taken as an indication of a decrease in trade for the decrease is directly due to overstocking by importers during 1925 and 1926. At the same time, there is every indication that the trade with the United Kingdom during 1928 will revert to normal and approximate the figures for 1926, but unless new industries of some importance are established or a renewal of immigration of labour occurs the prospects of materially increasing that trade are small. The proportion of import trade with United Kingdom was 25.9 per cent. in 1927 and the average for the last five years was 27.13 per cent. This proportion is not inconsiderable and must be considered as satisfactory when it is recognised that the United Kingdom does not supply food-stuffs to the Colony.

The main import trade with Australia and New Zealand is in food-stuffs and coal, the balance being made up mostly of goods re-exported, and the imports from Canada are represented chiefly by canned fish, motor-cars, tyres, and timber. The proportion of import trade done with these places in 1927 was 57.6 per cent.

The imports from United States of America consist mainly of lubricating, illuminating, and power oils and items of general hardware, those from Japan being chiefly cheap cotton goods. The proportion of the trade done by these countries was 10.02 per cent. and 1.09 per cent. respectively.

Exports.

The following Return shows the principal domestic exports from the Colony during the last five years :—

1923.			1924.			1925.			1926.			1927.		
Quantity.			Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.
			£		£		£		£		£		£	
Sugar ...	...	Tons	44,108	44,472	768,110	91,744	1,371,267	56,991	808,195	72,752	1,125,215			
Copra ...	...	"	24,161	23,137	484,496	24,133	497,713	27,868	573,475	26,560	534,416			
Molasses ...	...	"	8,392	4,783	4,783	8,283	8,283	7,374	7,374	11,181	11,181			
Bananas ...	...	Bunches	406,607	467,845	115,246	565,623	132,491	564,397	138,040	544,359	157,819			
Rubber ...	...	lb.	89,753	5,128	159,995	7,416	145,213	233,990	23,581	221,238	15,276			
Gum ...	...	cwt.	274	553	600	984	1,504	1,511	2,678	1,145	1,707			
Shell, turtle	...	lb.	545	393	1,446	1,313	3,179	3,385	4,538	1,278	1,382			
Shell, trocas	...	Tons	439	584	21,565	567	35,054	378	30,540	269	16,355			
Bêche de mer	...	cwt.	428	459	1,896	671	3,105	886	3,909	1,412	6,496			
Biscuits ...	...	lb.	115,185	334,365	7,788	482,146	10,429	453,397	9,095	360,387	9,334			
Butter ...	...	cwt.	2	—	—	213	1,881	525	3,616	484	3,615			
Cotton ...	...	lb.	—	86,659	7,176	7,612	571	190,243	17,138	249,355	17,593			
Oil, coconut	...	Tons	10,174	74	2,977	132	5,026	914	4,387	79	3,357			
Fruit, other fresh	...	—	4,165	—	2,756	—	6,041	—	6,579	—	5,536			
Vegetables, "	...	cwt.	3,852	5,853	2,572	4,845	3,171	10,509	4,958	7,228	3,717			

As will be seen from the preceding table, the main exports of the Colony are sugar, copra, and bananas.

The production of copra is steadily increasing although in no marked degree. The value of the copra exported during 1927 was £534,416, representing a tonnage of 26,560 tons of which 22,666 tons were shipped to United Kingdom and Continental ports and 3,894 tons to the United States.

Of the 72,752 tons of sugar exported in 1927, 15,236 tons were exported to New Zealand and 57,271 tons to Canada. This latter is a new market for Fiji sugar; the whole output in former years being taken by New Zealand. The prospects of the industry are good.

The banana industry is one most suited to the natives and practically the whole of the bananas exported were grown by natives. New Zealand is our only market at present, but it is thought possible that with improved methods of planting and packing entry may again be made into the markets of Commonwealth of Australia from which Fiji bananas, on account of the heavy import duty, have been practically excluded for several years.

Of the other items appearing in the above list, those of particular interest are rubber and cotton. These are comparatively new industries and are capable of expansion. Of the rubber exported during 1927, 122,597 lb. went to the United States of America and 92,162 lb. to the United Kingdom. The whole of the cotton exported which was of the Sea Island variety was sent to the United Kingdom.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Steamers of the Canadian-Australasian Royal Mail Line, the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand, Limited, the Australasian United Steam Navigation Company, Limited, and the Matson Navigation Company convey mails regularly between Fiji, Canada, Honolulu, San Francisco, Australia, New Zealand, and England. Inter-island communication is carried on by a steamer owned by Burns Philp (South Sea) Company, Limited, the Government steamer "Pioneer," several other small steamers owned by the Fiji Shipping Company, Limited, and a considerable number of auxiliary vessels and cutters.

A mail subsidy, at the rate of £5,000 per annum, is paid to the Canadian Australasian Royal Mail Line, a condition of the contract being that the vessels remain in port for six hours of daylight after arrival at Suva. A subsidy at the rate of £1,600 per annum was paid during 1927 to the Fiji Shipping Company, Limited, in respect of a steamer service between Suva and Labasa via coastal ports. In addition, the Government entered into an

agreement to remain in operation for five years, from the 1st May, 1927, to pay a subsidy at the rate of £7,500 per annum to Burns Philp (South Sea) Company, Limited, for the maintenance of an additional inter-insular steamship service. The vessel provided under this agreement has ample cargo and passenger accommodation to meet all possible demands and makes a four-weekly call at a number of ports and copra-producing centres with which no regular communication at all by steam vessels has for many years existed. The advent of this vessel has not only added considerably to the amenities of life of European settlers on the various islands of the Group, but has increased considerably the facilities that already existed for the convenient marketing of island produce from certain scattered islands and from the Dependency of Rotuma which is included in the itinerary.

The towns of Suva and Levuka, situated 54 miles apart and on different islands, are connected by a telegraphic and telephonic system, of which $11\frac{1}{2}$ miles are by submarine cable. The main island of Vitilevu is intersected by an overhead telephone line which passes through Nausori, Vunidawa, Nadarivatu, and Ba and terminates at Suva and Lautoka. The total distance covered by this line amounts to 125 miles. Of this line, the section between Suva and Ba is the joint property of the Government, the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, and the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand. The Government interest in the line terminates at Ba, though, by arrangement, hours have been allotted to the public for the use of this section. The Colonial Sugar Refining Company have also extended their private line from Lautoka to Sigatoka.

Government telephone services are established in the towns of Suva and Levuka, and in the districts of Nausori, Navua, Savu Savu, and Taveuni. In addition the Colonial Sugar Refining Company has established private services at Ba, Lautoka, Nadi, and Sigatoka, which connect with the main overland line in Suva, and at Labasa, in Vanualevu, which connects with the wireless station.

A telephone line some 60 miles in length to connect the planters on the south coast of Vanualevu with the Savu Savu wireless station was constructed during the year. Fifty-seven new subscribers were connected to the Suva telephone exchange.

At the principal settlements in the islands outside Vitilevu, viz., Labasa, Taveuni, and Savu Savu, which are not otherwise in communication with the capital, wireless stations have been established by the Government. The transfer of these wireless stations to the Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Company, Limited, will be effected as from the 1st January, 1928. This Company proposes to improve the services and give extended facilities at lower rates.

Direct cable communication exists between Fiji and Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, through the Pacific Cable Board, whose office is situated in Suva.

The road system of the Colony consists of 1,886 miles of road, of which 343 miles are suitable for motor traffic but are not continuous, being situated in five or six islands and centred at Suva, Lautoka, Navua, Sigatoka, Taveuni, Savu Savu and Lau, and are not inter-connected even when situated in the same island. The balance of the roads consists of 98 miles of cart roads and 1,445 miles of bridle-tracks.

With the advent of increased numbers of motor vehicles, progress has been along the lines of improved road surfaces to meet the steady increase in traffic. At the end of 1925 there were 634 motor vehicles in the Colony, an increase of over 100 per cent. on the 1922 figures. At the end of 1926 this figure had increased to 823, made up as follows: 297 private motor-cars, 311 taxi-cars, 117 motor-lorries, and 98 motor-cycles.

At the end of 1927 there were 949 motor vehicles registered:—

378 private motor-cars,

320 public motor-cars,

151 motor-lorries.

100 motor-cycles.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

The administration of justice throughout the Colony is provided for by the constitution of the Supreme Court and various district Courts of Summary Jurisdiction—Ordinance No. 4 of 1875 constitutes the Supreme Court by which it is declared to be a Court of Record and Supreme Court of Judicature in the Colony.

It consists of a Judge, called the Chief Justice, appointed from time to time by Letters Patent and holding office during His Majesty's pleasure.

The officers of the Court are a Registrar, a Deputy Registrar, a Clerk, and an Interpreter.

Under the Ordinance quoted, provision is also made for the appointment of a Sheriff whose duty it is to execute all process of the Supreme Court and to act as Marshal of the Supreme Court in its Admiralty jurisdiction. The Sheriff is assisted in his work by Deputy Sheriffs in the country districts, the duty being performed by the various District Commissioners.

The same Ordinance contains powers for the admission by the Chief Justice of Barristers and Solicitors to practise in the Colony. The terms of these admissions are also regulated by Rules of the

Supreme Court, dated the 14th May, 1883. Persons so admitted are deemed to be officers of the Supreme Court.

The jurisdiction of the Supreme Court is defined by sections 28, 29, and 30 of the Ordinance. By these sections it is enacted that the Supreme Court shall within the Colony have the same jurisdiction as that which His Majesty's High Court of Justice has in England and it is thereunder constituted a Court of Oyer and Terminer and Gaol Delivery Assize and Nisi Prius with like powers and jurisdiction as such Court has in England.

It is a Court of Equity and has within the Colony the same jurisdiction as the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice, and the powers and authorities of the High Chancellor of England. It is further a Court of Probate and a Court for Divorce and Matrimonial Causes, and under an Order in Council, dated the 10th March, 1894, Rules providing for the Admiralty jurisdiction of the Court were also established.

In addition to the local Ordinances, the Common Law, the Rules of Equity and the Statutes of general application which were in force in England on the 2nd January, 1875, are in force in the Colony but only so far as the circumstances of the Colony and its inhabitants permit, and this provision applies to all Imperial laws extended to the Colony.

During the year there are four Criminal Sessions of the Court sitting as the Central Criminal Court. These Sessions are held at Suva in April, July, September, and December. The Court also goes on Circuit to Lautoka in February, June, and October each year to obviate the expense and inconvenience of bringing into Suva the accused and witnesses from some of the outlying districts.

The Criminal Procedure of the Supreme Court is laid down by Ordinance No. 6 of 1875, by which it is directed that trials shall be either by a jury of seven or by the Chief Justice sitting with assessors. When the accused or the person against whom the crime has been committed is a native of the Colony, or a Polynesian, or native of India or China, or any Pacific Island, the trial takes place before the Chief Justice with the aid of assessors in lieu of a Jury, unless the Chief Justice shall for special reasons think fit otherwise to order. It is provided that the opinion of each assessor shall be given orally and recorded in writing, but the decision shall be vested exclusively in the Judge. In Jury cases the members of the Jury are required in the first instance to give a unanimous verdict, but if after a deliberation of at least four hours they are unable to agree the Court can accept a verdict of not less than 5 to 2.

In ordinary cases two assessors sit with the Chief Justice: in capital cases there must not be less than four assessors. Male

residents, of an age between twenty-one and sixty, with a competent knowledge of English and a gross income of £50 a year, are liable to be called as jurymen, with the exception of members of Executive and Legislative Councils, Government officers, persons employed by the Pacific Cable Board, practising physicians, surgeons and apothecaries, barristers and solicitors and their clerks in actual practice, clergymen and ministers, naval and military officers, masters of vessels and licensed pilots, and persons disabled by mental and bodily infirmity. Persons are called to serve as assessors from lists compiled by the Colonial Secretary, or such other officer as the Governor may designate, consisting of such male persons as are considered qualified from their education and character to serve in such a capacity. Exemptions from serving as assessors from lists compiled by the Colonial Secretary, or such cases sentence of death is pronounced by the Chief Justice, by whom a copy of notes of the evidence taken at the trial are forwarded to the Governor with a report containing any recommendations or observations he may think fit to make. The Governor after considering the report in Executive Council communicates the terms of his decision to the Chief Justice who causes the tenor and substance to be entered in the Court records. The Governor in these cases either issues a death warrant, an order for sentence of death to be commuted, or a pardon.

On the civil side, the Supreme Court has unlimited jurisdiction within the Colony and is governed in its practice by the Civil Procedure Rules, dated the 11th March, 1876, as amended by subsequent rules. These Rules are in substance the same as the rules contained in the first schedule to "The Supreme Court of Judicature Act, 1875," forming the practice of the High Court of Justice in England, and where no other provision is made by "The Civil Procedure Rules (1875)" or by any other rules of the Supreme Court the Procedure and Practice for the time being of the Supreme Court of Judicature in England is in force.*

The Civil Procedure Rules have been supplemented in special matters by other rules, the chief of which are :—

The Bankruptcy Rules, 1890.

Rules of the Supreme Court (Probate), 1905.

Rules of 1906 dealing with Originating Summonses and Motions, and the Admiralty Rules already referred to.

Provision is made for obtaining evidence for Foreign Courts and Tribunals under Rules made in 1908 and service out of the jurisdiction and of foreign process within the jurisdiction are covered by Rules made in 1912.

* Cf. Rules of Supreme Court, 1894, p. 394, Royal Gazette, 1893.

The ordinary Sittings of the Supreme Court are held in Suva and are three in number, Michaelmas Sittings beginning on the 1st November, Easter Sittings on the 1st March and Trinity Sittings on the 1st August.*

An Ordinance of 1883 provides that if the Chief Justice shall think that the nature or amount of civil business pending at Levuka (the ancient capital) is sufficient to warrant the holding of a sitting there, he may appoint a date for such sitting. Of recent years this power has not been utilised and the provision of the "Levuka District Registry," by which all preliminary matters up to the actual hearing can be dealt with, has been very seldom used, as litigants prefer to come to Suva.

The only appeal from the Supreme Court is to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

The Courts of Summary Jurisdiction, both Criminal and Civil, are, in the country, presided over by the District Commissioners to whom the various districts are assigned, and in Suva, by the Chief Police Magistrate. Broadly speaking, the powers of these officers are confined to minor offences on the criminal side with power to inflict a maximum penalty of six months' imprisonment, while on the civil side the Summary Procedure Rules of 1916 limit their jurisdiction as Commissioners of the Supreme Court to claims not exceeding the amount of £50.

District Commissioners have Criminal jurisdiction throughout the Colony, but their Civil jurisdiction as Commissioners does not extend beyond the limits of the Magisterial Districts to which they are appointed. District Commissioners also conduct the preliminary investigations in all indictable cases, the procedure being laid down in Ordinance No. 3 of 1876. Appeal from decisions of these inferior Courts to the Supreme Court is provided† in criminal matters when (a) the amount adjudged to be paid exceeds £3, or (b) a person has been adjudged to be imprisoned without the option of a fine, or (c) a charge has been dismissed, or (d) in any other case with leave of the Court where the question involved is one which, in the opinion of the Court, is of sufficient importance to justify an appeal. Provided that the party did not plead guilty, and also that an appeal from a decision dismissing a charge shall in every case be by way of a stated case on a point of law. (Ordinance No. 2 of 1903.) Appeals to the Supreme Court from decisions of Commissioners in civil matters are provided for under the Summary Procedure Rules, 1916, in all cases in which any judgment or order is pronounced for or in respect of any sum or matter at issue above the amount or value of £10. Administration in the districts is supplemented by Native Regulations which

* Rules, 1906.

† Ordinance 2 of 1903.

provide for the establishment of Courts having jurisdiction only over natives of the Colony. These Courts are of two kinds. Firstly, there are the Provincial Courts composed of the European Magistrate (District Commissioner) sitting with the Native Stipendiary Magistrate of the district and operating under the Native Courts Code, 1912, and other Regulations passed by the Board to govern the life of the natives of the Colony in accordance with their customs, and their communal life and holding of land. Such a Court is given minor criminal and civil powers over natives and can hear a petition for divorce from a native, but cannot pronounce a decree, the documents in each case being forwarded to the Chief Justice for actual decision. In addition, there is the District Court presided over by the Native Stipendiary Magistrate sitting alone, whose jurisdiction is limited to petty offences involving a maximum penalty of 40s., or imprisonment for six weeks, and in civil matters where the sum of money, or the value of the property claimed, does not exceed 40s.*

Provision is made for appeals from the District Court to the Provincial Court and from the Provincial Court to the Supreme Court.

During the year 1927 seventy-three civil actions were instituted in the Supreme Court, made up as follows:—

Summonses for debt, etc., 32; summonses for rent, rates, etc., 7; originating summonses 7; actions under mortgages and agreements 5; actions for damages 3; petitions for reduction of capital 2; Writs of Habeas Corpus 2; applications for admission as barristers and solicitors 1; miscellaneous 9 (being chiefly actions dealing with land matters). One only of these actions was commenced at the Levuka District Registry.

During the year there were no Criminal Appeals, and only two Civil Appeals were filed, one of which was an appeal against the decision of a Provincial Court and the other an Appeal against the decision of a Court of Review sitting on Income Tax Assessments at Suva. The first was not proceeded with and the second was dismissed. There were six petitions for divorce filed, one of which was European, the others being Indian and half-caste petitioners and one Fijian who elected to file his petition in the Supreme Court, claiming damages. Native divorces totalled 72, of which five petitions were dismissed. Seventy-two grants of Letters of Administration and Probate were made during the year. One petition for bankruptcy was presented during 1927, and, in the case of a firm against whom proceedings were originally instituted in 1924 and who had been subsequently carrying on business under a scheme of arrangement, the Official Receiver was appointed Interim Receiver of the property of the debtors.

* p. 6 Native Court Code, 1912.

Police.

(a) *Strength*.—On 31st December, 1927, the authorised strength was :—

Europeans—

Inspector-General	1
Deputy Inspector-General	1
District Inspectors	5
Sub-Inspectors	4
Head Constables	5

Natives—

N.C.O.'s	22
Constables	92

Indians—

N.C.O.'s	13
Constables	78

221

The Force was five short of strength on that date.

The officers and men are distributed over twenty stations on six different islands.

Recruiting is difficult, the pay and conditions of service failing to attract the right class of man in sufficient numbers.

(b) *Expenditure*.—The total cost of the Force for all services was £20,498 18s. 6d. The cost of Police per man is £94 18s. 0½d. and the cost per head of the population is 2s. 4½d.

(c) *Crime*.—The number of persons prosecuted for offences of all kinds was :—

Offences against the person	182
Offences against property	316
Other offences	1,091
	<hr/>
	1,589

Comparatively few of these offences were of a serious nature.

There were three cases of homicide, four of rape, and eight of robbery. About sixty per centum of the offenders were Indians.

(d) Supervision is exercised over all persons entering or leaving the Colony.

(e) *Traffic*.—All traffic is regulated by the Constabulary, while the Force carries out the registration of motor vehicles and the examination and licensing of drivers.

The number of motor vehicles registered in the Colony is 949, being as follows :—

Motor-cars for private use	...	...	...	...	378
Public motor passenger vehicles	...	...	...	...	320
Goods lorries	...	...	...	...	151
Motor-cycles	...	...	...	...	100

426 persons were convicted of offences against the Traffic Ordinance and Regulations, 71 of them in respect of reckless or negligent driving.

(f) *Training*.—The fact that it has not been possible to provide funds to establish a Reserve renders the proper training of recruits a matter of difficulty.

(g) *Health*.—The health of the Force was good throughout the Colony, very few men reporting sick.

(h) *Barracks*.—With the exception of Headquarters at Suva, the accommodation is adequate. It is hoped that the contemplated extension and reconstruction of the Headquarters buildings and offices will soon be undertaken. The completion of the work will prove a great benefit to the members of the Force and to the public who have business to transact at Police Headquarters.

(i) Communication is difficult between stations owing to the scarcity of roads and between the different islands as it is rarely possible to find available vessels travelling when required in the desired direction.

Prisons.

The prisons of the Colony are under the charge of a Superintendent.

The main Penitentiary is at Suva, and is an up-to-date establishment with every modern improvement for the safe custody and handling of criminals. The system is not reformatory, but industries have been established whereby prisoners are taught useful trades such as tinsmithing, blacksmithing, matmaking, tailoring, and carpentering. There is also a Government bakery at Suva Gaol, which is conducted at a substantial profit. There are nineteen Provincial or District Gaols where short-sentence prisoners are confined and are employed principally in maintaining the Government Stations.

No institution exists at present for reformatory treatment of youthful criminals, but a Committee appointed to investigate this subject and submit recommendations thereon is about to report on the advisability of adopting a suitable scheme for the handling of juvenile delinquents, and it is likely that an Industrial School for the accommodation of offenders of this class will be established in the near future.

The number of persons committed to the prisons of the Colony is as follows :—

						<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
1923	...	...	...	...	...	1,041	3
1924	...	...	...	...	...	1,037	6
1925	...	...	...	...	...	1,130	9
1926	...	...	...	...	...	997	30
1927	...	...	...	...	...	1,081	17
Average over period	...	...	...	...	...	1,057.2	13

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The total sum expended by the Public Works Department in 1927 amounted to £170,187, of which £66,255 represented expenditure under Loan Works Account. This total marks a record in the operations of the Department, corresponding figures for the past five years being as follows :—

							£
1923	...	...	...	...	...	...	122,625
1924	...	...	...	...	...	...	119,871
1925	...	...	...	...	...	...	115,683
1926	...	...	...	...	...	...	136,327
1927	...	...	...	...	...	...	170,187

The administration of public works is under the control of the Commissioner of Works and is carried out from Headquarters in Suva. For the general executive purposes of the Department the Colony is divided into three districts, with headquarters at Suva, Lautoka, and Levuka. Each of these districts is nominally under the charge of a District Engineer.

The Suva District is the most important and is based on Walu Bay, near Suva, where are situated the Government stores, machine shops, repair shops, and boatyard. The motor transport system, consisting of motor vehicles, inspection and towing launches, lighters, floating crane, etc., operates from Walu Bay. The slipway after enlargement last year was able to accommodate the " Makatea " with a deadweight of nearly 1,000 tons, although the way was originally constructed to deal with vessels up to 500 tons only. Further improvements are in progress; a second slipway is to be built for small craft, a new Government stores building is in process of erection, estimated to cost £3,600, and a Plant Depot is to be established in 1928. A forge and foundry are under construction and a site has been provisionally selected for a future graving-dock.

The number of workmen employed by the Public Works Department in the Suva District is about 600 and the value of works carried out during 1927 in that district was £100,000.

A new inspection launch, the "Adi Beti," was launched in November. She is 60 feet long by 14 feet beam and is fitted with a Gardner semi-diesel engine of 72 h.p. This is the largest launch entirely designed and constructed by the Public Works Department and cost approximately £3,250. She is fitted with state-room accommodation for eight passengers.

The most important work in progress in the Suva District in 1927 was the new Government House, which is being erected almost entirely under contract. The new Government House is being erected on the site of the original timber building which was struck by lightning and destroyed by fire in 1921. The elevations are in simple Doric style adapted to suit local conditions and carried out in substantial reinforced concrete construction. The estimated cost is £29,000. By the end of the year the structure had been completed except for certain internal joinery, fittings, and decorations. There is every prospect of the building being handed over for occupation by the contract date, the 18th April, 1928.

As a result of careful investigations as to the stability of the King's Wharf, Suva, repairs were commenced during the year. The wharf is of the type according to which a reclamation about 40 feet deep is retained by a random rubble revetment surmounted by concrete trestles and slabs, backing a timber wharf super-structure carried on long spliced timber piles. It was found that owing to settlement of the reclamation and forward movement of the trestles and slabs, considerable horizontal pressure was being exerted on the timber structure. It was decided to remove all such pressure by removing the trestles and slabs bay by bay and re-erecting these on a continuous reinforced concrete mattress clear of the timber structure. Nearly one-third of the wharf which is 1,500 feet long was dealt with in this manner during the year.

The main storage reservoir on the Suva Water Supply was completed during 1927 and put into operation. The reservoir was constructed by the excavation of 120,000 cubic yards of "soapstone" on a hill site. After cutting off the top of the hill, material was removed from the centre, working outwards so far as the thickness and nature of the rock permitted. A capacity of about 13,000,000 gallons was thus obtained with a maximum depth of 25 feet. Spoil was run out through tunnels by gravity. The work was commenced in 1923 but, owing to scarcity of labour, progress has been delayed. The total cost, including a mile of 8-inch cast-iron watermain, meter house, caretaker's cottage, and concrete fence, was £15,687.

Roads and bridges continued to occupy the special attention of the Department. The total expenditure under this heading was £62,151 of which £21,537 was on loan account. The streets and roads within the Municipal areas of Suva and Levuka are maintained and improved by the respective Councils. The roads in the immediate vicinity of Suva are under the direct supervision of the

District Engineer, while the remainder of the Colony is divided for purposes of road administration into sixteen Road Board areas, which as a rule coincide with the Magisterial Districts.

During the year good progress was made on the Savu Savu coast road. A stretch of 14 miles was opened to motor traffic and four motor vehicles are now running.

Motor traffic also commenced on the island of Taveuni where during the year ten miles of motorable road were opened.

Motor traffic is increasing throughout the Colony and the policy of gradually improving earth-roads with metal and gravel surfaces at a number of working points simultaneously is producing good results. To this end motor-lorries represent the most useful form of road construction plant, and the recent additions in this respect have produced a notable improvement in the rate of progress.

Under the present system the Road Boards which have legally only advisory powers are provided with funds from the General Revenue of the Colony. An experiment however was tried in 1927 on the island of Rotuma under which the necessary funds for road maintenance and improvement were provided by contributions from the natives, the motor-vehicle owners and the Government, each contributing approximately a third share of the expenditure. An expeditionary gang of Indian labourers was sent from Suva, and the results have been satisfactory.

No large new road works were carried out during the year, but roads were substantially improved in every district.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The year was a satisfactory one as regards acute infectious fevers. The only ones prevalent were measles of a mild type and, in the later months of the year, influenza of more than average severity. There was also some increase in sporadic typhoid fever.

The general death-rate of 17 per thousand was satisfactory when compared with a birth-rate of 30, but the death-rate among native Fijians of 23 (birth-rate 32) is disturbing. The death-rate of Fijian infants under one year of age, 158 per thousand births, is also unduly high. The figures show that Fiji is an exceptionally healthy country for Europeans and East Indians (death-rate 9.5 per thousand and birth-rate 27), but that adverse sanitary or social conditions still cause a heavy mortality among Fijians. All Fijian villages are regularly inspected by officials of the District Administration Department and the Native Medical Practitioners. Practically all Fijians are within reach of medical aid, and there are thirteen Provincial Hospitals provided for them besides the three General Hospitals, but the death-rate still remains disappointing.

In May a qualified European Infant Welfare Nurse was appointed to the Fijian Province of Tailevu. She spends her whole time in the villages and has the help of two native nurses trained at the Colonial Hospital. This interesting experiment should give further information as to the causes of the excessive native mortality.

In Suva and the adjoining district the Public Health Staff consists of a Medical Officer of Health and two qualified European whole-time Sanitary Inspectors. General sanitary inspections are regularly made. There is inspection of all meat slaughtered and of the dairies and milk supply. A new reservoir, with capacity for a three months' supply of water to the town, was opened during the year. An incinerator for the town garbage is being constructed.

In January a steamer conveying repatriates from Calcutta arrived in Suva with several cases of severe smallpox on board. Quarantine measures prevented the disease spreading beyond the ship's company. This event led to a vaccination campaign which aimed at vaccinating the whole population except those who had already been so treated within the past seven years, or twice during their lifetime. Up to the end of the year a third of the people of Fiji had been vaccinated.

An outbreak of epidemic dropsy, confined to East Indians, which first appeared in December, 1926, continued during the early months of the year. The great majority of the cases were mild and many sufferers did not apply for treatment. Some few cases, however, were of a severe type and five deaths were reported. Investigations showed that rice, to which epidemics of this type are usually attributed, was a very unlikely cause of the outbreak in this instance, and the medical authorities were inclined to attribute the occurrence of the epidemic to the consumption of impure mustard oil.

The care of Public Health in the country districts is in the hands of twelve District Medical Officers, forty-two Native Medical Practitioners, a European Ankylostomiasis Officer, and five Indian Sanitary Inspectors. Besides the thirteen Provincial Hospitals there are General Hospitals at Levuka and Lautoka, a Methodist Mission Indian Women's Hospital at Ba which is subsidized by the Government, and subsidized European Cottage Hospitals at Ba, Savu Savu, and Taveuni.

The Colonial War Memorial Hospital in Suva has 113 beds. There were 2,180 admissions during the year. There is a European Nursing Staff of five trained nurses and twelve probationers, and there are ten native nursing pupils. To this hospital is attached the Native Medical School which was attended in 1927 by twenty students, of whom twelve Fijians and three Indians are for the Fijian Medical Service, and three Samoans and two Gilbert and Ellice Islanders for service in the Islands.

Lepers of all races in Fiji are compulsorily segregated on the Island of Makogai, and lepers from New Zealand, Samoa, Tonga, and the Cook Islands are also received in the Asylum. The staff includes a Resident Medical Superintendent, twelve European and eight Fijian Roman Catholic Nursing Sisters. There were 439 patients in the Asylum at the end of the year, of whom nine were from New Zealand, twenty-seven from Samoa, thirteen from Tonga, and fifty-seven from the Cook Islands.

Vital Statistics.

				<i>Population.</i> <i>31st December, 1927.</i>	<i>Birth-rate.</i> <i>1927.</i>	<i>Death-rate.</i> <i>1927.</i>
Europeans	...	...	...	4,458	25·6	9·9
Fijians	...	...	...	90,263	32·6	23·0
East Indians	...	...	...	69,463	27·7	9·4
Other races	...	...	...	9,652	26·8	22·4

IX.—EDUCATION.

The early history of education in Fiji is closely associated with the activities of both the Methodist and the Roman Catholic Missions, and at the present time the following bodies are all practically interested in education: Methodist Mission (1835), Roman Catholic Mission (1844), Church of England Mission (1870), Seventh Day Adventist Mission (1889), the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited (1880), and local Fijian and Indian School Committees.

Mission schools for Fijians exist in nearly every district, and Mission and private schools for Indians are being opened in districts where Indians reside.

Nearly fifty years ago the Government opened an Industrial School at Yanawai for Fijians, and some years later (1890) the increase in the number of Europeans settled in the Colony necessitated the opening of public schools in Suva and Levuka for European pupils. About this time, also, the Roman Catholic Mission founded schools in Suva for their European adherents.

In 1916 an official Education Department was created in order to systematize the activities of the various bodies engaged in educational work. The School Boards were replaced by the Board of Education with School Committees, and Ordinances were passed to allow grants-in-aid to be made to primary and vernacular schools attended by pupils of all races settled in the Colony. In addition, the registration of all schools and teachers was made compulsory.

As a result of a resolution of the Great Council of Chiefs held in 1917, six provincial boarding schools for Fijians were founded during the years 1920-1925.

In 1926 an Education Commission was appointed and submitted its report. Mr. John Caughley, M.A. (late Director of Education, New Zealand), was appointed Director of Education, Fiji, on 3rd December, and arrived in the Colony to assume the duties of his post on 8th December.

At the present time educational facilities are provided both in the towns and in the more settled country districts for all European pupils. Government and Roman Catholic schools exist in Suva and Levuka, and these, together with the country schools at the four principal sugar centres, provide accommodation for the majority of the European children of school age in the Colony, while European children in isolated places may be enrolled in the Government scheme of correspondence classes. There are three Government schools for European pupils, and these schools are conducted under a scheme of co-operation with the Education Department of New Zealand so that the system of education adopted is practically the same as that in the Dominion. About one-quarter of the total number of pupils on the roll at the grammar schools in Suva are boarders, the boarding fees in respect of each pupil ranging from £40-£50 per annum.

For the Fijian natives a complete system of education is gradually being developed. Nearly every village has a vernacular school managed by one or other of the Missions, and from a village school a pupil may become enrolled in one of the eight assisted primary schools, or in one of the six Government provincial schools. From these latter schools the Fijian youth may proceed to the Queen Victoria School at Nasinu, or to one of the various Mission training institutions at which a higher education is provided. For the selected few there are Government scholarships enabling them to continue their studies abroad.

Fifty years ago, when the Government and the Missions were commencing to deal with problems of Fijian and European education, there were no East Indians in the Colony. Now there are approximately 70,000 Indians resident in Fiji. In 1927 there were one Government school, thirty-one assisted primary, twenty-five assisted vernacular, and about twenty private schools for Indians.

There are now altogether sixty-eight Government and assisted schools, eight being for Europeans and pupils of mixed European descent, thirty-three for Fijians, twenty-two for Indians and five receiving pupils of various races. They are attended by 5,690 pupils of whom 620 are Europeans, or of European descent, 3,390 are Fijians and others and 1,680 are Indians. The staffs consist of 64 European, 98 Fijian, and 44 Indian teachers. Under the Registration of Schools and Teachers Ordinance of 1918 there were 646 schools and 1,385 teachers registered in the Colony up to

31st December, 1927. The majority of schools are village schools for Fijians supervised by native teachers who give instruction in the vernacular.

The annual expenditure on education, which was about £3,000 per annum prior to 1915, amounted to £25,322 in 1923, £27,103 in 1924, £30,039 in 1925, £31,584 in 1926, and £34,027 in 1927.

The following is a list of the external examinations for which candidates may be entered; Cambridge Local Examinations (Preliminary, Junior, and School Certificate): New Zealand Education Department Examinations—Standard VI Proficiency and Public Service Entrance Examinations; New Zealand University Examinations, including Matriculation, Accountancy, Preliminary Examinations, and Degree and Diploma Examinations; London University Examinations, including Matriculation and various Degree Examinations; Australian Examinations, such as that for the Diploma of the Australian Trained Nurses Association, and the licence examination of the Federated Surveyors Boards of Australia and New Zealand.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

Prior to the British occupation of Fiji European settlers had acquired large areas of land from the native chiefs, and, after the Deed of Cession, Crown grants for land, on claims substantiated before the Lands Commission, were issued. In this manner 414,615 acres were alienated.

By the year 1912, Crown grants for a further area of 20,184 acres of land purchased from the natives had been issued, but in this year the sale of native lands, except to the Government for specific purposes, was prohibited.

The standard tenure is leasehold up to ninety-nine years, with re-assessment of the rental every twenty-fifth year in building leases, and every thirty-third year in agricultural leases. To afford greater security to the tenant, the Government passed an Ordinance which provided that on refusal by the native owners to renew a lease (without just cause) the owner should pay the value of the permanent and unexhausted improvements on the land, failing payment of which the Governor-in-Council could issue a lease renewal on re-assessed rental.

Leases of Crown lands are submitted generally to public auction, usually of an upset premium of £2 to cover the cost of advertising the auction sale. Leases of small areas applied for by East Indians are exempt from sale by public auction. Instructions for survey are issued by the Crown Surveyor on payment of the survey fees by the lessee, who is then entitled to enter into occupation.

The rent of land in Fiji varies according to situation and quality. Pasturable lands vary from 1d. to 2s. per acre, coconut lands from 6d. to 5s., hill land from 6d. to 2s., banana, sugar-cane, rice, and maize land from 5s. to £1, the latter rental prevailing only in certain favoured localities in which supply and demand have resulted in that high rent.

The following statement shows the position as regards land alienated at the end of the year 1927 :—

Statement showing total alienation of land in the Colony up to the 31st December, 1927.

Nature of Title.	No. of Titles.	Area.	In process of alienation.		Total.	Total area of Colony.
			No. of Lots.	Estimated Area.		
		Acres.		Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Freeholds	1,585	531,345	3	301	531,646	4,523,620
Leases of Crown Land	296	18,581	75	1,440	20,021	—
Leases of Native Land	6,752	360,957	762	19,917	380,874	—
Total ... ..	...	...	...	Acres	932,541	4,523,620

Four hundred and eighty-four applications for leases of native lands aggregating 35,446 acres were received during the year. Of these, 259 applications for 3,333 acres were approved and 95 applications for 4,668 acres were under consideration at the end of the year. Applications by Indians formed 82 per cent. of the total. Sixty-three applications for leases of Crown lands aggregated 4,979 acres. Of these, 33 applications for 333 acres were approved and 20 for 153 acres were under consideration at the end of the year, the remainder having been declined or withdrawn. The number of documents relating to leases of Crown and native lands, sent to the Registrar of Titles Office for registration, decreased from 1,643 in 1926 to 1,253 in 1927.

Survey.

The working of the Survey Regulations instituted in 1924 has resulted in a further satisfactory reduction of outstanding surveys and expedition of new work. Four hundred and fifty plans were examined and passed, as compared with seven hundred and forty-five during the corresponding period of 1926.

Native Lands Commission.

The Native Lands Commission, which operates under Ordinance No. 1 of 1905, is charged with the duty of ascertaining what lands in each province of the Colony are the rightful and hereditary property of native Fijian owners, and whether the ownership is by Matabali (a tribal division), or by some other division or subdivision of the people.

The Commission consists of a European chairman and four native chiefs of the highest rank. The clerical staff is composed entirely of native officers, and the official language of the Commission is Fijian.

The members of the Commission are vested with the same powers as those vested in District Commissioners, to summon and examine on oath any person whom they may think able to give relevant evidence, and to require the attendance of all claimants to any land the title of which is being inquired into, and of all persons likely to be interested in such land.

Any appeal against any decision of the Native Lands Commission, provided notice of appeal is lodged within sixty days of the announcement of the decision, is heard and determined by the Governor-in-Council, whose decision is final. If no notice of desire to appeal is given, the record of the decision is conclusive.

All lands recorded by the Commission as the rightful and hereditary property of native Fijians are surveyed by a staff of surveyors especially employed for the purpose. The cost of the survey is borne by the proprietary unit owning the land and is assessed on a scale prepared by the Crown Surveyor and approved by the Governor-in-Council. The law requires that the cost of survey shall be paid within six months after demand; but, if it is proved to the satisfaction of the Governor that any proprietary unit is unable to pay, the Governor is empowered to make such order as may seem fit and just. Natives have shown no disinclination to pay for the survey of their lands; and to the 31st December, 1927, close on £15,000 had been recovered and paid into the Treasury.

The Commission in 1927 completed investigations in the province of Bua, about half of Macuata, and in the island of Beqa.

During the year the surveyors attached to the Commission operated in the provinces of Rewa, Naitasiri, and Macuata.

The end of the Commission's labours on the two main islands of Vitilevu and Vanualevu is now well within sight.

XI.—LABOUR.

The conditions under which native Fijians are employed as manual labourers differ in one most important respect from those which govern the employment of labour in most other parts of the world. There is no such thing as a labouring class of Fijians dependent for their subsistence upon their earnings as labourers. Every Fijian is a member of a land-owning tribal unit and has the right to use a portion of the tribal lands for planting crops for food and profit or for the raising of cattle. He shares by right of birth in the income derived from permanent crops such as coconuts

existing on his tribal lands, and in the rents from lands which are leased. If he remains in his village, he is provided with a house of native construction built by the community of which he is a member. Beyond performing his share of the work done for its own benefit by the community as a whole he pays no rent either for his land or his house. He is in fact, a small-holder, owning his own land and house and capable of supporting himself and his dependents from the produce of his lands. In most cases he is also a landlord, and in the more closely settled districts receives a not inconsiderable income from the rents of leased lands. There is, therefore, no necessity for any Fijian to work for wages in order to support himself and his family. The vast majority of the Fijians do in fact support themselves by cultivating their own lands. An average of about 10 per cent. of the adult male population elects to work for wages for periods which in most cases seldom exceed one year. A few of the more enterprising amongst them leave their communities and live as independent units upon their earnings. Most of them, however, go to work as labourers for a definite period in order to obtain money for a specific object such as a church, a boat, or material for a European-style house. When sufficient money has been obtained for the object in view they return to their villages and resume their work as agriculturists. In this manner the personnel of the labourers is constantly changing and the number of labourers employed in any one year does not represent a definite section of the community which is dependent for its existence upon its wage-earning capacity. Thus the labour conditions do not exercise any considerable influence upon the Fijians as a whole apart from affording them a means of acquiring additional social amenities and of taking part in all branches of industry within the Colony.

The employment of Fijians falls mainly into the following five classes:—Agricultural labourers, casual labourers, artisans, seamen, and domestic servants.

Agricultural labourers are usually employed under a contract of service for a period of 12 months. The average wage is £24 a year on copra plantations and in the majority of cases for those who sign agreements with the Sugar Company £18 a year and a bonus of £5 at the conclusion of the contract, and in addition the employer provides food, lodging, medical attention, and a certain amount of clothing. The hours of labour are nine per day from Monday to Friday, and five on Saturday, making a working week of 50 hours. When additional hours are worked by the labourers they are either paid overtime or given time off to compensate for their additional work. Most of the agricultural labourers are employed on the copra and sugar-cane estates. In many instances the labourers take their wives and families with them and quarters are provided for them by the employers. The cost of bringing

labourers to an estate and of returning them to their villages on completion of their term of service is borne by the employers. A large proportion of the labourers elect to receive house-building material to the value of their wages instead of cash, and they take back this material for the erection of European-style houses in their villages. The taxes of all labourers are paid by the employer for the period of their service as labourers. No native may enter into a contract of service as an agricultural labourer for a period exceeding 12 months. Every contract of service for a period exceeding one month must be made before a District Commissioner who may withhold his consent to the contract if it appears to him to be unreasonable or inequitable. Apart from the comprehensive safeguards provided by law for the proper treatment and care of agricultural labourers the limitation of the period of service under contract and the constant changing of the personnel of the labourers effectively prevents any ill-treatment by the employer. As all recruiting of labourers is entirely voluntary, any employer who earns a bad reputation amongst the Fijians finds very great difficulty in getting any labourers to work under agreement on his estate.

The employment of natives as casual labourers is practically confined to the ports of Suva and Levuka and Lautoka. They are employed chiefly for the loading and unloading of foreign-going ships and they return to their villages after the loading of each ship is completed. The average wage paid for this class of labour is 4s. a day. A limited number are employed by the week by the commercial houses for the distribution of merchandise, and are paid £1 a week. Most of the labourers thus employed come from the native villages in the vicinity of the ports, and as their personnel is constantly changing they do not form a class of casual labourers. The number of Fijians employed as artisans is comparatively small but is slowly increasing as the facilities for training are extended. They are mostly employed as carpenters, boatbuilders, marine engineers, and firemen. The wages of carpenters and boatbuilders vary from 7s. to 12s. a day according to the skill of the worker. Marine engineers who are employed to drive the auxiliary power units in small inter-insular vessels are paid from £6 to £10 a month according to the size of the vessel in which they are employed. In addition to their wages they are supplied with food by the employer. As most of their time is spent at sea their wages are ample for the support of their dependents. A few natives are employed as firemen on inter-insular vessels and are paid an average wage of £5 a month.

Most of the small inter-insular boats are manned entirely by Fijians under the charge of a certificated native master. The wages paid to a Fijian master of a vessel vary from £6 to £16 a month according to the size of the vessel. The wages of the crew vary from £3 to £8 a month for a mate and from £2 to £4 a

month for ordinary seamen. In all cases food is supplied by the owner of the vessel. Practically all native seamen are employed by the month and very few contracts are made for service over an extended period.

Very few Fijians are employed as domestic servants. Native cooks are paid from £4 to £6 a month and house-boys and waiters from £2 to £4 a month. Food and quarters are provided by the employer, and the employment can generally be terminated by either party at one month's notice.

The employment of Fijians for skilled and unskilled work is in all cases a matter of agreement between the employer and the worker. No scale of wages is laid down by law, but where agreements are entered into for any period over one month the District Commissioner may disallow the agreement if the terms offered are unreasonable. The constant changes amongst the individual labourers do not impose upon the natives a prolonged absence from their villages. Thus the social system under which the Fijians live is not seriously impaired by the employment of natives as labourers, nor is there any sensible weakening of tribal and customary control.

The number of Fijians who signed in 1927 agreements to work for employers, in nearly all cases for one year, was approximately 2,300. About 1,000 of these were employed on the plantations of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, and the majority of the remainder on the copra plantations.

The number of Indians who signed in 1927 agreements to work for employers, in the majority of cases for the Colonial Sugar Refining Company and for six months or the period of the sugar-crushing season, was approximately 1,300.

About 3,000 Indians were employed as labourers by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, the majority without written agreements and on conditions allowing of a week's notice on either side, during the cane-planting season. The number during the crushing season increased to about 4,200, including those who worked under written agreement.

It is difficult to summarise information regarding Indian labourers, particularly in respect of wages and cost of living, without risk of misunderstanding. The number of Indians now dependent entirely or even mainly on cash wages is comparatively small and decreasing, and with the general increase in mechanical methods of farming and of handling produce the proportion working as unskilled labourers has also decreased considerably. Even for these, as Indian settlements have extended, the cash wage is almost everywhere supplemented now by the produce of a rice plot or garden patch and of farm stock. The "basic wage," therefore, affects a much smaller proportion than it did formerly.

The actual cash wage paid to unskilled labour by public authorities and big firms in Suva, where rents are high, was raised during the year from 2s. 6d. (fixed in 1922) to 3s. a day for a 48-hour week. The standard in country districts is 2s. a day. Wages of semi-skilled labour run up to 4s. or 5s. a day.

On the estates of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company the basic wage for Indians for field work is 1s. 8d. a day for a task capable of performance by an average labourer in six hours, with an additional bonus of 6d. per week for a full week's work. Labourers have the option of undertaking an extra task or part thereof on completion of their daily task.

Harvest wages are by piece work at a standard rate per ton. It is not uncommon for cane cutters to earn up to 22s. 6d. a week or more.

For ploughmen, stablemen, tractor drivers, etc., special rates are fixed, ranging from 9s. 9d. to 17s. a week, with the additional bonus for a full week's work.

For mill work during the slack season wages range from 10s. to 21s. a week, with the bonus above mentioned. Special workmen receive up to 30s. a week. In the crushing season the basic wage in the mill is 11s. 6d. a week, but a large proportion earn higher rates for special work. Frequent opportunities for earning overtime occur, and in some cases special bonuses for a full week's work are paid, ranging from 2s. 3d. to 3s. 9d. a week.

In addition to these wages and bonuses, men engaging for work throughout the crushing season can earn an extra bonus for mill work of £4 to £4 10s.

The following concessions are also given by the Company—free accommodation, free medical attendance to labourers and their families, and facilities for keeping cows. In addition to this, Indian wage-earners are entitled to buy from the Company's stores for themselves and their families the equivalent of the old standard weekly ration at prices which bring the cost of this down to 3s. a week. As will be seen later, this is equivalent to an addition to the wage for single men of 1s. 4d. a week and more for the man with a family.

Average wages for all classes of labour are of course apt to be misleading, but the Company calculates that during 1927 the average cash wage for agricultural labour was 2s. 1d., and for all other labour 2s. 7½d. per day, with the addition in the case of a number of workers of the cheap-price concession at the Company's stores.

These current wages may be compared with the information given in the report of the Agent-General for 1914. According to Appendix B of this report the average daily earnings of male Indian indentured labour for all days on which work was actually done

was 1s. 1½d., and it is stated in paragraph 60 of this report that the rates for engagements under the Masters and Servants Ordinance for the crushing season in sugar mills varied from 1s. 3d. to 3s. a day, the majority being from 1s. 9d. to 2s. Indian labourers employed on public works in Suva were paid in 1914 at wages varying from 2s. to 2s. 6d. per day.

With regard to fluctuations in the cost of living, materials are available for a comparison of the cost of the old standard weekly ration. This was in 1914 2s. 9½d., in 1920 5s. 6d., and in 1928 (current prices) 4s. 3½d. Taking 1914 prices as 100, the scale rose to 200 in 1920 and has since fallen to 153.

Some statements are also available for the comparison of prices of other necessities, such as clothing, kerosene oil, washing materials, tobacco, and matches. According to figures worked out in 1922, the total cost of the articles listed was 1914 13s. 6d., 1922 £1 12s. 10d., and 1928 £1 5s. Comparison of these prices by the same method gives 1914 100, 1922 243, 1928 185.

Assuming that the minimum recorded wages in 1914 were for unskilled labour it seems clear from these figures that wages of Indian labourers have kept pace or more than kept pace with the increased cost of living. It is notorious in Fiji that labour of all kinds is scarce and difficult to get even at wages offered. A well-known Indian planter in the neighbourhood of Suva has to pay his workers 10s. a week in addition to rations costing 7s. 6d. a week, and on out-of-the-way plantations where it is impossible to provide a patch for cultivation wages up to 3s. a day with free quarters and rations at wholesale prices are supplied.

Public Works Department Labour.

The total number of labour, skilled and unskilled, at present employed under the Public Works Department, including Road Boards, is about 1,066. Of these, 620 are employed in the Suva district and 446 in the various country districts. The labour is composed of several nationalities, as set out hereunder:—

<i>Europeans.</i>	<i>Half-castes.</i>	<i>Indians.</i>	<i>Fijians.</i>	<i>Others.</i>
47	54	711	232	22

No race or class distinction is made with regard to labour; Europeans, Indians, Fijians, Chinese, etc., often work together in the same gang and each is paid in accordance with the standard of work done.

Road labourers compose about half the labour force. Of these, 455 are Indians and 52 Fijians. The Fijian does not, as a rule, care for the heavy routine work of repairing roads and it is only in the country districts where Indian labour is scarce that they find employment in this manner. Fijians chiefly find employment in the Works Department as carpenters, boatbuilders, and water

transport workers. Indians compose the bulk of unskilled labour on road and quarry works, builders' and dockyard labourers.

Indian labour is scarce throughout the Colony, and as stated elsewhere it is the usual custom for the labouring class of Indian to cultivate a small area of paddy and maize in addition to performing daily work. During the planting and harvesting seasons considerable numbers of labour spend the whole of their time on agriculture, and gangs are depleted. Works, however, are arranged accordingly.

The general rate of wages for unskilled labour in the Suva district is 3s. per day of eight hours and 2s. 6d. in the country. Where Indian labour is scarce in country districts Fijians command a somewhat higher rate. Levuka, for instance, has to pay 4s. for Fijians and Taveuni and Vunidawa 3s. In other cases the rates are the same for Indians and Fijians, at 2s. 6d. There are about 640 unskilled labourers employed under the Department. In addition there is a body of about 200 which can only be classed as semi-skilled men earning from 3s. 6d. up to 6s. per day as launch crews, slipway hands, helpers to various trades, timekeepers, painters, etc.

Among the skilled trades it is sometimes difficult to obtain trained men, and comparatively high wages are commanded by good tradesmen. Europeans are employed as road overseers, lorry, crane and steam-roller drivers, fitters, machinists, blacksmiths, etc.

The half-castes usually find employment in the building trades as carpenters, joiners, and boat-builders.

The wages of skilled workmen vary considerably with the individual standard of skill. There are no fixed rates and no trade unions.

The following figures will give some idea of the current rates:—

Carpenters and Joiners: From 3s. 6d. up to £1 per day, depending on the degree of skill. Half-caste carpenters from 7s. 6d. to 16s. per day. Fijians can earn up to 12s. per day.

Boatbuilders: From 8s. up to £1 per day, chiefly half-castes. Semi-skilled Fijians employed in the boat-sheds, from 3s. 9d. up to 8s.

Painters: Usually Indians, 3s. 6d. per day. Leaders up to 9s. per day.

Mechanics: Including motor mechanics, fitters, turners, blacksmiths, boilersmiths, etc., up to £1 per day. Apprentices 5s. rising to £2 5s. per week. Usually Europeans and half-castes.

Lorry and steam-roller drivers: Chiefly Europeans, 15s. to 18s. per day. The average wages are about £4 15s. per week.

Road Overseers: Chiefly Europeans, £18 to £25 per month.

Road Gang Sirdars: Indians, £4 10s. up to £10 8s. per month. Average wages £7 per month.

XII.—NATIVE AFFAIRS.

No alteration was made during the year in the administration of Native Affairs, in which the natives themselves take a large share. Under the powers conferred by Native Regulation No. 3 of 1912, District and Provincial Councils make regulations, which are subject to the approval of the Governor, for the good government and welfare of their respective Districts and Provinces. The Great Council of Chiefs advises the Governor on matters pertaining to the welfare and progress of the Fijian race and nominates the chiefs from whom the Governor selects the native representatives in the Legislative Council. Native Stipendiary Magistrates adjudicate in the District Courts upon minor infringements of the Native Regulations. Right of appeal lies to the Provincial Court, in which a European District Commissioner and a Native Stipendiary Magistrate jointly preside. All graver breaches of Native Regulations are dealt with in Provincial Courts, from which appeal lies to the Supreme Court of the Colony.

The Native Regulations were revised and enlarged by the Native Regulation Board. The Regulations were approved by the Legislative Council in October, 1927, but were not brought into force before the end of the year. The new Regulations embody for the most part the recommendations made by the Great Council of Chiefs in 1926 and also contain additions and amendments which are deemed by the Native Regulation Board to be in accord with the wishes of the most enlightened section of the native community. The constitution of the Great Council of Chiefs was amended by the reduction of the number of native official members and by the substitution of representatives chosen by the Provincial Councils. Provision was made for the holding of office for three years by selected and nominated members. The constitution of Provincial Councils was amended to provide for the inclusion of representatives selected by District Councils and of not more than five native chiefs to be nominated by the Provincial Commissioner or Roko. The power of voting in Provincial Council was extended to all members, thus assuring a more general representation of native opinion. Amendments were made to ensure the better control of money collected by the natives for purposes of common benefit, to prohibit unauthorised collections among the natives, to provide for the payment of money in lieu of communal services by men absent from their villages, and to enforce more strictly the law for the suppression of gambling. Provision was made for the better care of women and children, for the prohibition of irregular unions, and for the control of native women in industrial centres. The privilege of chiefs to demand the personal services of their people was restricted to those chiefs who alone enjoy the hereditary right to such services, and power was retained to the Governor to suspend the privilege in cases of

abuse. The procedure for the registration of births and deaths was revised in order to secure effective and correct registration, and a new regulation made for the determination of the legitimacy of native children born in wedlock, in order to ensure that a land-owning tribal unit may be protected from the inclusion amongst its members of children who are in fact illegitimate and have no connection with that tribal unit.

During the first nine months of the year the general health of the natives was satisfactory. In the last three months there was an epidemic of influenza which resulted in a considerable number of deaths. There was an increase for the year of 862 in the native population. The birth-rate was 32.53 and the death-rate 22.98 per thousand. Since the Census of 1921 the Fijian race has increased by 5,788. In addition to the established medical service by which natives receive free medical treatment at provincial and general hospitals and at the hands of native medical practitioners stationed in all the provinces, a vaccination campaign was conducted during the year in which about 40,000 Fijians were vaccinated. A new general hospital at Lautoka, in charge of a European Medical Officer with a staff of two Europeans and five native nurses, was opened to Fijians and the building of a similar hospital at Nadi was commenced. Infant welfare work, under the supervision of a European nurse trained in New Zealand, was started in May amongst the native women and children of Tailevu. Towards the end of the year Dr. Roberts, the wife of the American Vice-Consul, offered her services for infant welfare and general medical work amongst the natives residing in the vicinity of Suva. Dr. Roberts had been engaged for some years in similar work in the mandated territory of Western Samoa. This generous offer was gratefully accepted and good results may confidently be expected from the establishment of this important branch of work amongst the natives.

The elementary education of the majority of the Fijians remains largely in the hands of the religious bodies established in the Colony. In practically every village there is a village school conducted by a native teacher. In many places where geographical conditions permit there are group schools employing one or more certificated teachers. At many Mission stations there are large boarding schools conducted by the European missionary or priest assisted by Mission Sisters. In some provinces there are boarding schools supported by native funds and under the control of the Provincial Commissioner, or Roko. Many of these schools are assisted by money grants from the Government. Six provincial boarding schools have been established from Government and native funds. These schools are under the supervision of European headmasters assisted by a staff of trained native teachers. An annual contribution is made by the natives towards the maintenance expenses of these schools. In addition, there is the Queen

Victoria School, established in 1906, in which higher education is provided for selected pupils from the provincial and Mission schools. Scholarships are provided for the training of promising young Fijians outside the Colony, and four youths received education at Wanganui Technical College, New Zealand, during the year. Attached to the Colonial War Memorial Hospital, Suva, there is a Medical School where Fijian youths are trained to become native medical practitioners, and Fijian girls to become native obstetric nurses.

In addition to the Government institutions, the missionary bodies in the Colony have several excellent schools and training colleges whose curricula include branches of technical education. An agricultural school for the training of natives in modern methods of cultivation has been established at Navuso by the Methodist Mission with the assistance of a grant from Government funds. Keen interest is taken by the Fijians in all branches of education and progress is only limited by the lack of adequate financial resources.

The great majority of the Fijian population is engaged in agriculture, cultivating their tribal lands on which they plant food crops for their maintenance and for profit. Their crops consist mainly of yams, taro, sweet potatoes, tapioca, plantains, bananas, and pine-apples. Although they use only the simplest of agricultural implements, their planting operations are very successful. As they have as a rule large areas of fertile land at their disposal, they effect the equivalent of rotation of crops by the alternate use of a number of gardens and by permitting the land on which an exhaustive crop has grown to lie fallow for one or two years before a second crop is planted on it. In the cultivation of taro, of which the most common variety requires a constant supply of water, they show considerable engineering skill. Where a running stream or drainage from an elevated swamp is available the surrounding land is terraced with a succession of shallow beds in which the young taro is planted. The water is then led into the highest bed and flows slowly through each succeeding bed until it is drained from the lowest into the parent stream or the sea.

A very large proportion of the bananas exported from the Colony are grown by the Fijians. As all fruit exported is subject to strict inspection by Government Inspectors the standard of quality is high. Native plantations are inspected by officials of the Agricultural Department, who advise the natives on the best methods of cultivation and prevention of disease. The bananas grown by the natives are bought at the various Government packing stations by the exporters and are shipped by them to New Zealand and Australia. A large income is annually derived by the natives from the production of bananas.

A great many of the natives own coconut groves. The coconuts are used by them for the manufacture of coconut oil and copra.

The copra, which is sun-dried, is usually sold to the local store-keeper and later sent to Suva or Levuka for export. A great improvement has taken place during the last year in the health of the coconuts in Vitilevu and its adjacent islands owing to the effective control of the Levuana disease. Now that the fear of destruction of coconuts by this disease has been removed a much increased activity is evident in the planting of this valuable product. Many areas under coconuts in Vitilevu which were formerly regarded as useless are now bearing well, and arrangements have been made in many provinces for a steady and continuous planting of coconuts by the natives. Native coconut groves are inspected by Government Inspectors, who instruct the natives in the proper care of their plantations and in the selection of land for new planting operations. The impetus given to the cultivation of coconuts by the control of the Levuana disease will add materially to the prosperity of a large section of the Fijians.

The cultivation of sugar-cane remains largely in the hands of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company and of the East Indian planters, but there is satisfactory evidence of the growth of sugar-cane cultivation amongst the natives. When it is realised that the cultivation of sugar-cane necessitates the use of horses and bullocks and of agricultural machinery, hitherto largely unknown to the natives, the successful adoption of their use by the more enterprising natives is very encouraging. Although the planting of sugar-cane by the natives has not yet assumed large proportions, a good start has been made and there is every prospect of its extension in the near future.

Most of the work on European-owned coconut plantations is done by natives. Fijians are also almost exclusively employed in the transport of produce by inter-insular vessels. Many of the natives are masters of vessels up to 30 tons and most of the marine engines in these vessels are run by native engineers. Although the Fijians possess little knowledge of navigation, they have a natural aptitude for the sea and are highly successful in navigating their vessels amongst the reefs and shoals which abound amongst the islands. All the loading and unloading of ocean-going vessels is done by Fijians, whose splendid physique makes them particularly suitable for this type of work.

Many of the clerical positions in the Government and in the commercial houses are held by the better educated Fijians. A few own and conduct their own stores and a considerable number earn their living as carpenters and artisans.

There is evidence of the growing desire amongst the Fijians to take an active part in every branch of industry established in the Colony, and their successful adoption of new methods of production augurs well for the future prosperity of the race.

XIII.—INDIAN AFFAIRS.

It is estimated that the Indian population of the Colony, which numbered 60,634 (37,015 males and 23,619 females) in 1921, now amounts to approximately 70,000 (42,000 males and 28,000 females). The recorded birth-rate for the year was 27.72 per thousand and the death-rate 9.42 per thousand. The number of marriages registered under the Marriage Ordinance rose from 195 to 294. This is still less than half the number of registered Fijian marriages, though the populations of the two races are now approaching equality of numbers. Many Indian marriages celebrated by customary rites still remain unregistered and not legally binding. The question of a remedy for this social evil in the form of an amendment of the Marriage Ordinance is now under consideration. The great bulk of the population is engaged in agriculture, but the number engaged in other pursuits is increasing. According to the Census figures of 1921 some 15,000 Indian adults were recorded as agriculturists or cultivators, 4,000 as agricultural labourers, and 1,000 as labourers in various industries. The number of Indian storekeepers in 1920 was 870 and 1,270 in 1924. The number of Indian storekeepers to-day is 1,117. The Chinese are competing keenly with Indians in this branch of trading. The number of Indian motor-car proprietors and drivers in 1921 was 89; this has now risen to 716, and there are now 409 Indian-owned motor-cars as compared with 172 in 1924.

Figures showing the actual acreage of agricultural land held by Indians are not available, but during the past seven years fresh leases by Fijian owners have averaged 2,000 acres and renewals of leases 1,000. The total number of Indian holdings of all sorts is estimated to be approximately 7,500. In addition, Indians hold some 24,500 acres as tenants of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited. The sugar industry in the Colony is now entirely controlled by this Company, which actually cultivates less than one-third of the area planted. Out of a total area under sugar of approximately 78,000 acres, 29,000 acres are in the hands of outside cultivators not bound by agreement to plant for the Company, 24,500 acres, as stated, are held by its tenants, and only 24,500 acres are cultivated by the Company itself. A considerable area in the north-east corner of Vitilevu has recently been taken over by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, from the Penang Sugar Company, Limited. This has been let out almost entirely to Indian farmers in 10-acre farms. Competition for the farms is keen, and although the Company's tenants have to conform with restrictions as to cropping and rotation there can be no doubt that these are in the best interests of the tenants and that the standard of cultivation is maintained at a much higher level by this means than would be otherwise possible. The leasing of the Company's area in small farms is still proceeding, and it seems probable that in the near future the Company will retain

in its own hands sufficient land only for experimental purposes and certain areas which require organised drainage on a scale beyond the resources of small farmers.

The other main crops grown by Indian farmers are : rice (6,000 acres), cotton (1,000 acres), maize (2,500 acres), and *arhar dal*, and, also, in the neighbourhood of Suva and other centres fairly large areas of kava or yaqona, Fiji root crops, and pine-apples. A decreasing area is under bananas.

Though the rice crop is a large and important one and nearly all Indian farmers endeavour to grow some rice for domestic consumption, the Colony is not yet self-supporting in respect of this commodity, and much still remains to be done to organise effective control of surface water on the bigger rice flats.

The cotton industry is at present in the experimental stage, and there seems reason to anticipate that the area sown will always fluctuate in accordance with the vicissitudes of the seasons. In favourable seasons, in suitable localities the crop will yield a good return but the small farmers do not seem inclined to devote more land to it than can be managed and harvested by their own households. The establishment of the industry on a firm basis will, however, undoubtedly add considerably to the resources of the Indian colonists.

Maize is widely grown but, except in favourable circumstances, it is not a crop easily marketed.

The *arhar dal* crop is important, as adding to the supplies of pulses and improving the soil, but it is liable to suffer considerably in wet seasons from insect pests. The possibility of giving it increased protection seems worth investigating.

Few Indians have taken up dairying work on any scale. Small supplies of ghee are produced locally, and cows are cheaply purchased and pasturage can be leased at low rentals. Considerable supplies, however, both of ghee and edible oils are still imported from India.

The questions of amendments in the method of representation of Indians on the Legislative Council and the Municipal Councils are now receiving attention. The possibility of the better adaptation of the Residential Tax Ordinance to Indian circumstances is also under consideration.

With the arrival of the permanent Director of Education there is every prospect of further developments in the educational facilities provided for Indians of all classes. In view of the limited financial resources of the Colony, progress will depend to a large extent on the possibility of devising a scheme for meeting a proportion of cost by means of education rates on Indians themselves. Fiji education is already largely financed in this way. The Colonial Board of Education has been reconstituted and Indians have full representation thereon.

The repatriation vessel for the year, the s.s. "Ganges," arrived in January with over 500 passengers on board, including a number of cases of smallpox, and was detained in quarantine for over five weeks. The consequent detention of the repatriates collected in the depot at Suva awaiting return to India resulted in their becoming infected with measles, and the vessel arrived at Calcutta on her return voyage to India with 53 cases on board. The Government Emigration Agent reported that, owing to lack of adequate provision for quarantine at Calcutta, he had considerable difficulty in dealing with the emergency.

The repatriates numbered : adults 701 and children 281. Apart from nearly £10,000 remitted through banks, they took back approximately £35,000, or an average of £50 per adult. Comparative figures are only available for the years 1923, 1925, and 1926, and in those years Fiji repatriates took back on the average one child to each two adults and £44 per adult. For other Colonies the average is only one child to three adults and £22 per adult. The difference in favour of Fiji is marked and seems worthy of record. It may also be noted that considerable sums are deposited in Fiji each year by the Indian colonists here for the introduction of relatives from India. In the year under report £1,865 was deposited for about 100 persons.

Numbers of those repatriated repent of their decision to return to their native land, and during the year arrangements were made to re-introduce some who were anxious to return under a scheme financed from the accumulated balances to the credit of the old Immigration Fund. It remains to be seen whether this experiment will prove successful, but a risk exists in schemes of this nature of the idea receiving encouragement that those entitled to repatriation can enjoy a free trial trip to India with the prospect of being brought back again at Government expense if they find conditions in India uncongenial. It would not be in the true interests of the colonists themselves to encourage the idea. Repatriation at the best entails the breaking up of the Fiji home and the disposal of property, frequently at a loss and the severing of old ties.

The Colony is becoming reconciled now to the cessation of organised immigration, and looks to the natural increase in population and the private enterprise of the classes in India which have learnt that there is a career open to them overseas. The flow of immigrants belonging to these classes from the Punjab seems increasing, and many of them develop into energetic and enterprising colonists. It is significant that the last direct vessel from India brought, in addition to agriculturists, 22 bootmakers, 18 barbers, 37 traders, 53 tailors, 17 laundrymen, and 16 jewellers. The number of tradesmen of these classes which the Colony can absorb is, of course, limited.

It is not altogether easy to make out why the impression still prevails that the Indian population in Fiji is in a depressed state, economically hard-pressed and suffering from a number of unremedied grievances. In a way it would be more correct to say that the immediate problem is that of assisting a community which has risen rapidly in material prosperity, to consolidate the advance made and prepare the way for future progress.

There is little or no poverty among the Indian colonists. The great bulk of them are comfortably off. Even for the poorest actual subsistence is assured. Root crops can be grown for almost nothing, and dairy cattle and poultry are cheap and cost practically nothing to keep.

The country is undulating and well watered and presents few large-scale drainage and water supply problems, and there exists almost everywhere on the fringe of cultivation plenty of good land for grazing and awaiting development.

It was stated in the report of last year that the relations between the different sections were amicable. There have been some signs of friction recently, due to the tendency to focus progress first in the sectional field, but the great bulk of the population is unaffected and seems determined to preserve the old relations, without which it is impossible for this community, minute as it is according to Indian standards, to combine for its own advancement and co-operate with the Government and others willing and able to help it to take its place with the two other communities as a permanent element and one essential to the future prosperity of the Colony.

XIV.—METEOROLOGICAL.

Pressure.—The mean pressure for the year taken at 20.30 and 03.30 Greenwich Mean Time and reduced to 32° Fah. and Mean Sea-Level was 29.918"; the highest recorded being 30.190" on 5th July and the lowest 29.567" on 10th February.

The following table gives the mean pressure for each month of the year, together with the highest and lowest readings and the dates of their occurrences :—

<i>Months.</i>	<i>Monthly Means.</i>	<i>Highest Recorded.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Lowest Recorded.</i>	<i>Date.</i>
January ...	29.810"	29.991"	2nd	29.579"	31st
February...	29.821"	29.986"	25th	29.567"	10th
March ...	29.898"	30.025"	12th	29.756"	30th
April ...	29.900"	30.028"	10th	29.784"	16th
May ...	29.929"	30.061"	7th	29.686"	25th
June ...	29.996"	30.118"	25th	29.847"	7th
July ...	29.996"	30.190"	5th	29.844"	11th
August ...	29.981"	30.098"	6th	29.861"	24th
September ...	30.019"	30.165"	29th	29.890"	5th
October ...	29.981"	30.126"	20th	29.812"	6th
November ...	29.875"	30.073"	3rd	29.720"	26th
December ...	29.814"	29.956"	6th	29.700"	18th

Air Shade Temperature.—The mean temperature for the year was 78.6° Fah., the highest recorded being 97° on 29th December, and the lowest 63° on 13th and 24th July.

Humidity.—The mean percentage of relative humidity for the year was 79.4, the greatest amount, namely, 100 per cent., being recorded on the following dates: 12th January and 19th August, and the lowest recorded being 53 per cent on 14th July and 27th August.

The following table gives the mean monthly temperature and absolute highest and lowest temperatures and the dates of their registration, together with the mean percentages of relative humidity and the highest and lowest recorded, with the dates of their occurrences during each month of the year.

Months.	Temperature in Shade.					Humidity 100 = Saturation.				
	Mean.	Highest.	Date.	Lowest.	Date.	Mean.	Highest.	Date.	Lowest.	Date.
January	75.9°	91°	14th	70°	8th	82.2	100	12th	57	2nd
February	80.9°	91°	28th	71°	3rd	79.1	98	10th	61	21st
March ...	82.3°	92°	1st	73°	4th	74.8	97	6th	59	31st
April ...	81.3°	91°	11th	71°	7th	78.5	96	8th	59	25th
May ...	78.7°	90°	21st	69°	21st	81.6	96	22nd	59	17th
June ...	75.9°	88°	7th	65°	25th	80.1	96	24th	58	4th
July ...	75.2°	88°	13th	63°	28th	77.1	94	2nd	53	14th
August ...	75.7°	88°	17th	66°	4th	81.5	100	19th	53	27th
September	76.2°	84°	18th	64°	6th	77.6	95	22nd	54	8th
October ...	76.6°	87°	23rd	67°	8th	80.2	96	28th	60	9th
November	78.3°	88°	24th	68°	28th	81.2	96	22nd	62	28th
December	81.3°	97°	10th	72°	1st	78.8	97	21st	60	5th
			15th		4th					

Rainfall, Winds, etc.—The table overleaf gives the rainfall for 1927 at Suva together with the number of wind observations, hail, thunderstorms, gales, etc., for each month of the year. The total amount of rainfall for January, viz., 31.61 inches, is the highest on record for this month during the last 43 years.

: : :

Months.	Rainfall.		Weather. No. of days of				Wind. Number of Observations of																									
	Total.	Max. Date.	Rain.	Hail.	Thunder- storms.	Clear Sk'y.	Overcast.	Gales.	N.	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.	Calms.															
						8-30	3-30	8-30	3-30	8-30	3-30	8-30	3-30	8-30	3-30	8-30	3-30	8-30	3-30													
January ...	31-61	8-49 11	27	—	5	1	1	20	23	—	2	1	2	1	9	8	4	9	2	5	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	8	2
February ...	14-10	5-74 9	24	—	2	3	1	7	14	1	—	—	3	2	9	9	1	9	1	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	—	10	1
March ...	4-48	1-10 26	20	—	6	3	4	1	7	—	6	2	5	3	7	15	1	5	1	2	1	—	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	7	—
April ...	10-46	4-31 16	25	—	6	5	2	8	9	—	5	1	5	2	7	14	2	7	—	3	—	1	—	1	1	1	1	1	1	10	1	—
May ...	8-17	2-32 22	18	—	1	4	—	11	17	—	3	2	5	3	6	9	3	8	1	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	3	—
June ...	9-31	2-47 28	18	—	2	4	3	13	11	1	—	1	3	4	6	12	5	7	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	2	—
July ...	3-47	1-15 31	19	—	—	4	6	13	9	—	2	1	7	5	8	7	6	10	1	5	—	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	—	—
August ...	9-14	3-10 31	23	—	1	1	2	16	16	—	5	—	5	4	6	9	5	11	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	8	4	—
September ...	7-13	2-15 22	21	—	1	1	1	17	13	—	3	—	3	2	12	11	7	13	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	2	1	—
October ...	17-93	4-47 29	22	—	2	1	1	17	20	—	1	—	3	3	12	12	7	13	—	1	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	1	6	—	—	—
November ...	15-38	2-27 17	29	—	3	1	1	15	20	—	2	2	3	3	10	8	9	14	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	3	—	—
December ...	17-39	2-37 20	27	—	7	4	1	6	11	—	3	6	4	2	8	8	4	11	5	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Year ...	149-17	— —	273	—	36	32	23	144	170	2	32	16	48	34	100	122	54	117	17	32	11	15	10	10	10	10	10	5	5	88	14	—

The average rainfall in the wet and dry districts as shown by observations taken at different stations over a period of years as stated in the following table are as follows :—

Wet Districts.				Dry Districts.			
No. of Years.	Station.	Province.	Average Yearly Rainfall.	No. of Years.	Station.	Province.	Average Yearly Rainfall.
48	Wainunu ...	Bua ...	149·05	6	Narovurovu	Ba ...	89·68
21	Valeci ...	Cakaudrove	101·03	33	Rarawai ...	"	81·87
8	Vuna ...	"	119·23	25	Lautoka ...	"	68·70
18	Waiyevo ...	"	101·18	32	Munia ...	Lau	69·77
22	Rabi ...	"	145·71	5	Nabavatu...	"	77·60
15	Vunidawa...	Colo East ...	142·86	4	Lakeba ...	"	73·64
27	Nadarivatu	Colo North	125·92	26	Navo ...	Nadi	63·99
11	Naitonitoni	Serua ...	130·57	2	Richmond...	Kadavu	56·60
33	Nausori ...	Tailevu ...	114·26	20	Lawaqa ...	Nadroga	67·61
4	Wainivesi...	"	160·11	1	Sigatoka ...	"	64·48
23	Rotuma ...	Rotuma ...	139·04	12	Buca Bay...	Cakaudrove	95·72
1	Navuso ...	Rewa ...	126·76	13	Makogai ...	Lomaiviti...	81·63
43	Suva ...	"	117·06	33	Levuka ...	"	91·81
8	Burenitu ...	Ra ...	101·37	30	Labasa ...	Macuata .	98·32

Thus the wet district average is 126.73" and the dry 77.24", but it must be taken into consideration that the heaviest rainfall takes place during the hurricane season, viz., November to April both inclusive. During these months the precipitation in 1927 was 62 per cent. of the total rainfall for the year. For the dry district the heaviest rainfall is also within the same period but the precipitation is greater, being in 1927 equal to 72 per cent. of the annual fall. It will be readily seen, therefore, that the difference between the season is much more distinctly marked in the dry district, with the consequence that the planters vary considerably their methods of cultivation in the two districts.

XV.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Thirty-three Ordinances were passed during the year 1927. Of these the most important were :—

No. 1. *The Destruction of Bank Vouchers Ordinance 1927.* which permits a bank to destroy old cheques, drafts, and bills of exchange after the expiration of 10 years from the date of such documents if payable on demand and from the due date thereof in the case of all other documents. No such documents shall be destroyed after a demand for the delivery of such documents has been made to the bank by the person entitled thereto.

No. 2. *The Passports Ordinance 1927* provides for the production of passports by all persons landing in the Colony. Power is reserved to the Governor to exempt persons from this requirement. A person landing contrary to the Ordinance is guilty of an offence and the master or agent of the ship from which he landed is liable to all expenses incurred by Government in detaining and maintaining such person pending deportation.

No. 3. *The Live Stock Record Association Ordinance 1927* provides for the formation of the Fiji Live Stock Record Association to encourage the breeding of pure-bred domestic animals, and other purposes.

Nos. 5 and 17 amend the Vaccination Ordinance 1888. Any Government Medical Officer may vaccinate any person arriving in the Colony. Every unvaccinated adult of whatever race shall upon being notified to do so attend an appointed place to be vaccinated.

No. 9 makes provision for Courts in Rotuma and empowers the Rotuma Regulation Board to make regulations subject to the approval of Legislative Council. The Rotuma Ordinance 1882 is repealed.

No. 10. *The Rotuma Native Dealings Ordinance 1927* repeals a similar Ordinance of 1895. Certain contracts between natives and non-natives are not enforceable unless registered by the Resident Commissioner, who has power to refuse to register the contract. A contract not to be fully performed on both sides within one year shall not be registered without the approval of the Governor-in-Council.

No. 31. *The Fruit Export Amendment Ordinance 1927* empowers the Governor to prescribe areas in which it shall be unlawful for any person to purchase for export bananas grown by Fijians unless he has a banana-buyer's licence. Licences may be issued on such terms and conditions as the Governor-in-Council may prescribe.

No. 32. *The Copra Ordinance 1927* requires an exporter of copra to have a licence for the purpose. The Ordinance provides for the grading of copra for export and generally for the improvement of the quality of copra exported.

179°



From	178°
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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1927.

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY.

1. Trinidad was first discovered by Columbus on the 31st July, 1498, and taken possession of by him for the Crown of Spain. It was visited by Sir Robert Dudley and by Sir Walter Raleigh in 1595, and was included in the Earl of Montgomery's grant in 1628. In 1640 it was raided by the Dutch, and in 1677 and 1690 by the French. In 1783 a Royal Proclamation was issued by the Court of Madrid by which extraordinary advantages were offered to foreigners of all nations to settle in Trinidad, the sole condition imposed being that they should profess the Roman Catholic religion. The result of the Proclamation was a large influx of population, which was augmented by many French families, who were driven from St. Domingo and elsewhere by the French Revolution, and to this is due the preponderance of the French element in a Colony which never belonged to France. In 1797, Great Britain being then at war with Spain, a British expedition sailed from Martinique for the reduction of Trinidad which resulted in the surrender of the Island to His Majesty's forces, and on the 18th February, 1797, the articles of capitulation were signed by Sir R. Abercromby, Admiral Harvey, and Chacon, the Spanish Governor. In 1802 it was finally ceded to the Crown of Great Britain by the Treaty of Amiens.

2. The Island of Trinidad is the most southerly of the West Indian Islands and is geographically and biologically a part of the South American Continent, from which it is separated by the Gulf of Paria, into which fall the northern mouths of the Orinoco. It is situated between $10^{\circ} 3'$ and $10^{\circ} 50'$ North latitude, and $60^{\circ} 55'$ and $61^{\circ} 56'$ West longitude from Greenwich. Its average length is about 50 miles, and breadth about $37\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and its total area is 1,862 square miles. The Island is traversed by three parallel ranges of hills running approximately east and west. The first, rising to over 3,000 feet, borders the northern coast; the second, rising only in one spot to 1,000 feet, runs diagonally across the centre of the Island; and the third, seldom rising above a few hundred feet, occupies a broad belt near the Southern coast.

3. Tobago was discovered by Columbus in 1498, at which time it was occupied by Caribs. The British Flag was first planted on the Island in 1580, and the sovereignty was claimed by James I. in 1608. In 1628 a grant of the Island was made by Charles I. to the Earl of Pembroke. It remained unoccupied until 1632, when 300 Zealanders were sent out by a company of Dutch merchants, who styled it New Walcheren. After a residence of about two years these settlers were all destroyed or expelled by the Caribs and Spaniards from Trinidad. In 1641 James Duke of Courland obtained a grant of the Island from Charles I., and in 1642 two vessels arrived with a number of Courlanders, who settled on the North side of the Island. These were followed by a second Dutch Colony in 1654, who established themselves on the Southern coast. In 1658 the Courlanders were overpowered by the Dutch, who remained in possession of the whole Island until 1662, when the Dutch Company resigned their right to it. In this year Cornelius Lampsis procured letters patent from Louis XIV creating him Baron of Tobago, and proprietor of the Island under the Crown of France. In 1664 the grant of the Island to the Duke of Courland was renewed by Charles II. The Dutch refused to recognise the Duke's title, but in 1667 they were compelled to evacuate it by the French Admiral Estras, who defeated the Dutch Admiral Binks in Scarborough Bay, whereupon Louis XIV restored it to the Duke of Courland, who made over his title to a company of London Merchants in 1681. In 1684, by the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, the Island was declared neutral, the subjects of all European Powers being at liberty to form settlements but not to place garrisons on it. By the Treaty of Paris in 1763, Tobago was ceded by France to England in perpetuity. In 1781, it was captured by the French under the Duke of Bouillé, and in 1783 it was surrendered by treaty to the French Crown. In April, 1793, it was captured by a British force under Admiral Lefrey and General Cuyler, and was once more restored to the French by the Treaty of Peace in 1802, and again reconquered in 1803 by Commander Hood and General Greenfield. In 1814 it was finally ceded in perpetuity to the British Crown.

4. The Island of Tobago lies between $11^{\circ} 8'$ and $11^{\circ} 21'$ North latitude and $60^{\circ} 30'$ and $60^{\circ} 50'$ West longitude, distance about 26 miles North-East of Trinidad. It is 26 miles long and $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles at its greatest breadth, and has an area of 114 square miles.

5. By Order in Council under Act 50 and 51 Vict: Tobago became part of the Colony of Trinidad as from 1st January, 1889. By a further Order in Council of 20th October, 1898, Tobago became a Ward of the United Colony of Trinidad and Tobago as from the 1st January, 1899.

6. English is the principal language and is generally used by all classes. French and Spanish are also spoken particularly in business houses trading with the French West Indian Colonies and Venezuela and other South American Republics.

7. British Currency and United States gold are legal tender. Accounts are kept in sterling by the Government and in dollars by the public, and the coin in circulation is almost exclusively British silver and bronze, there being no limit to silver as legal tender.

In 1903, an Ordinance providing for the issue of Government Currency Notes, was brought into force. Under this Ordinance, notes of the denominations of \$1, \$2 and \$1,000 have been issued, the total value in circulation at 31st December, 1927, amounting to £122,292.

8. The weights and measures in use in the Colony are the same as in the United Kingdom, but cocoa continues to be bought and sold locally by the old Spanish "fanega" of 110 lbs. avoirdupois.

I.—GENERAL.

1. The Colony, in spite of the unfavourable effect on its staple products, viz. : sugar, cocoa and coconuts, of an abnormal wet season, enjoyed a fair measure of prosperity during the year, this being marked by a considerable increase in Revenue and also in Imports and Exports. The total Revenue exceeded recurrent and extraordinary Expenditure by £189,029, due mainly to increased receipts from Customs, Excise and Income Tax, while the total value of the External Trade amounted to £12,516,039 compared with £11,459,778 in 1926, the value of Exports exceeding that of Imports by £935,993.

2. This satisfactory result was mainly attributable to the exports of Petroleum products, the value of which amounted in 1927 to £2,326,361 or 38·9 per cent. of the total exports. The industry continued to shew steady progress during the year, the oil produced amounting to 188,316,240 gallons, an increase of 14,314,753 gallons on the production of 1926, and placing Trinidad as the second largest producer of petroleum within the British Empire. During the latter part of the year Sir Thomas Holland, D.Sc., LL.D., K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., Rector of the Imperial College of Science and Technology and Ex-President of the Institute of Petroleum Technologists and of Mining Engineers, &c., whose services the Colony was fortunate in obtaining, visited the Colony to advise generally on the steps to be taken to conserve and develop the industry.

3. The Canada-West-Indies Trade Agreement of 1925, under which the preferences granted by the 1920 Agreement were substantially increased, was brought into operation in April, 1927.

The preference granted by the Colony of 50 per cent. of the duties levied on goods of foreign origin was extended to the United Kingdom resulting in an appreciable increase in imports from both Canada and the United Kingdom. The ships required for the service, as called for by the Agreement, are being specially built for the trade by the Canadian Government, and will be in operation by the end of the year.

4. The improvement in the Colony's finances in 1926 and again in 1927 allowed of the scheme for providing for an adequate water supply for the central districts of the Colony, which had been held up for many years by want of funds, being seriously considered, and a Committee was appointed during the year to advise as to the scheme to be adopted and the manner in which the expenditure involved should be met. The Committee presented a comprehensive report of their investigations and the Legislative Council approved of steps being taken for an expert examination of the scheme and the preparation of detailed plans and estimates, with a view to the commencement of the work in the near future.

5. The erection of a House of Refuge for the old and infirm, at an estimated cost of £50 000, was commenced during the year, and a number of timber bridges, thirty-two in all, were replaced by concrete structures. The roads of the Colony were well maintained and the exceptional damage done by heavy floods during the year was repaired.

6. The general health of the Colony was satisfactory, the year being marked by a fall in the general death-rate to 18·71 per 1,000, the lowest figure hitherto recorded being 20·02 per 1,000, and the general diminution in the incidence of disease, particularly in the intestinal group and in malaria, the number of deaths from the latter disease being the lowest yet recorded. Alastrim has disappeared and no other epidemic has broken out. Special clinics were established for the free treatment of sick children, and instruction courses in Hygiene were commenced towards the close of the year in preparation for the medical inspection of Schools which is being undertaken during the present year.

7. Sir H. A. Byatt, K.C.M.G., Governor of the Colony, attended the Colonial Conference held in London in May, 1927. Copies of the proceedings of the Conference have been received by this Government, and such recommendations and suggestions as are of local interest have either been adopted, or are under consideration.

8. The first term of three years of the newly constituted Legislative Council expired on the 31st December, 1927, and after a General Election in January a new Council assembled for a period of five years' duration.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, 1927.

II.—FINANCE.

REVENUE.

1. The Revenue of the Colony for the year 1927 amounted to £1,686,053. As compared with 1926, the Revenue showed a decrease of £51,235 due to the exclusion in the 1927 accounts of the Railway receipts. Including these receipts of £155,833, the Revenue for the year amounted to £1,841,886, or £104,598 in excess of that of 1926.

The following comparative table shows the receipts under the several heads of Revenue as compared with 1926:—

Heads of Revenue.	1926.	1927.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
1. Customs ...	614,452	676,400	61,948	
2. Licences, Excise, &c. ...	456,453	511,246	54,793	
3. Tax on Incomes ...	122,713	161,538	38,825	
4. Fees of Court and Office ...	168,940	154,601		14,339
5. Post Office ...	36,838	35,239		1,599
6. Rent of Government Property ...	1,539	1,718	179	
7. Interest ...	15,939	17,621	1,682	
8. Miscellaneous Receipts ...	1,013	4,093	3,080	
9. Land Sales, Royalties ...	118,479	108,362		10,117
10. Coastal Steamer "Belize" ...	15,815	15,235		580
11. Government Railway * ...	185,094			185,094
12. Produce Tax ...	13			13
	1,737,288	1,686,053	160,507	211,742
	Net decrease			£ 51,235

* No revenue appears under this Head for 1927 owing to a change in the system of accounts whereby only expenditure in excess of revenue is included in the accounts of the Colony. The Revenue under Railway for 1927 amounted, however, to £155,833 or £29,261 less than that for 1926.

EXPENDITURE.

2. The total expenditure for the year amounted to £1,497,024 as against an appropriation of £1,472,434, or £24,589 more than appropriated, and included £64,270 on account of extraordinary expenditure, of which £17,960 was expended on Extraordinary Public Works, and £46,310 on Roads and Bridges.

The Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years were as under:—

Year.	Revenue.	EXPENDITURE.		
		Recurrent.	Extra-ordinary.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1923	1,633,552	1,590,166	35,275	1,625,441
1924	1,586,834	1,536,198	36,567	1,572,765
1925	1,662,874	1,531,698	49,051	1,580,749
1926	1,737,288	1,522,352	57,861	1,580,213
1927	1,686,053	1,432,754	64,270	1,497,024

EXPENDITURE FROM LOAN FUNDS.

3. The expenditure from Loan Funds during the year was as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Extension of Telephone Communication ..		10	5
Improvement of Tidal Rivers	449	19	0½
Roads	5,244	1	5½
Water Supply of Towns and Villages ..	593	5	7½
Improvement of Wireless Plant	690	5	7
New Dredging Plant	48	12	10
Chacachacare Leper Asylum	1,007	11	4½
New House of Refuge	9,466	5	9
Caroni Reclamation Scheme	173	3	11½
Total	£17,673	16	0½
Less sale of stores credited to Railway expenditure		162	14 10½
Net Expenditure	£17,511	1	2

The following is a summary of the total Loan Expenditure at 31st December :—

	£	s.	d.
Railway	1,702,198	10	8½
Gulf Steamers	15,358	0	3
Roads	506,563	0	1½
Harbour Improvements	182,903	14	8
Public Buildings	94,061	17	7
Belmont Improvement Scheme	15,772	7	0
East Dry River Improvement	10,018	5	9
Floating Dock and Workshop	83,304	12	3
Coastal Steamer	30,963	9	0
Caroni Reclamation Scheme	111,047	4	6
Water Supply of Towns and Villages ..	147,965	11	3½
Improvement of Tidal Rivers	10,391	11	4
Improvement of Wireless Plant	4,788	1	1
Extension of Telephone Communication ..	910	0	0
Crane for Wharf	3,393	0	6½
New Dredging Plant	33,753	14	6
Chacachacare Leper Asylum	35,665	12	4½
New House of Refuge	9,471	5	9
War Contribution	100,000	0	0
Port-of-Spain City Council	381,387	5	10½
San Fernando Borough Council	22,348	7	6
Arima Borough Council	8,315	13	7
Total	£3,510,581	5	8

The balance of the several Loans remaining unexpended at the 31st December amounted to £121,017 2s. 1½d.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

4. The excess of Assets over Liabilities at the commencement of the year was	...	£	s.	d.
	...	248,676	7	2
	£	s.	d.	
The Revenue of the year amounted to	...1,686,052	16	4½	
and the Expenditure to	...1,497,023	18	0½	
a net excess of Revenue of	...	189,028	18	4
The Surplus at 31st December was therefore	...	£437,705	5	6

Of this Surplus £200,000 has been set aside as a reserve.
The following is a summary of the Assets and Liabilities:—

ASSETS.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Cash on deposit with Barclay's Bank	85,044	5	10			
Cash in the hands of the Treasurer and his Sub-Accountants ..	21,910	0	5½			
Cash in the hands of the Crown Agents	18,222	19	0			
Cash on Deposit with the Crown Agents	71,000	0	0			
Remittances in transit.. ..	30,226	8	11½			
Total Cash and Remittances ..	226,403	14	3½			
Investments—						
Surplus Funds	118,449	0	5			
Savings Bank	410,501	12	6			
Depreciation Fund, Gulf and Coastal Steamers and Dredger	34,708	0	1			
Immigrants Repatriation Fund	14,843	2	10			
Land Assurance Fund	3,984	8	8			
Sundry other	211	12	2			
Total Investments	582,697	16	8			
Bank Securities for Note issue—						
Canadian Bank of Commerce	39,000	0	0			
Royal Bank of Canada ..	107,000	0	0			
Total Securities	146,000	0	0			
Carried forward	£955,101	10	11½			

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT.

ASSETS.—*Continued.*

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward ..				955,101	10	11½
Advances—						
Agricultural Bank ..	143,605	6	4½			
Port-of-Spain City Council ..	42,802	0	0			
Statutory and other Authorities ..	15,627	2	7			
Other Administrations ..	3,209	7	0½			
Public Officers ..	8,845	18	11½			
Miscellaneous ..	4,140	7	11½			
Total Advances ..				218,230	2	11
Bills Receivable ..				13,814	11	2
Imprests ..				362	19	7½
Stores—						
Railway ..	39,246	11	3½			
Public Works ..	1,236	5	5½			
Dock ..	27,900	3	7			
Medical ..	5,202	16	9			
Total Stores ..				73,585	17	1
Total Assets ..				1,261,095	1	8½

LIABILITIES.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Loans ..				121,017	2	1½
Deposits (for investment)						
Savings Bank ..	436,897	8	9½			
Depreciation Fund, Gulf and Coastal Steamers and Dredger ..	34,708	0	1½			
Immigrants Repatriation Fund ..	14,850	8	2			
Land Assurance Fund ..	4,137	16	3			
Sundry other ..	221	1	2			
Total ..				490,814	14	6½
Bank Securities—						
Canadian Bank of Commerce ..	39,000	0	0			
Royal Bank of Canada ..	107,000	0	0			
Total Securities ..				146,000	0	0
Other Deposits—						
Reward Funds ..	250	11	1½			
Suitors' Moneys ..	3,748	7	4½			
Post Office ..	7,410	6	1½			
Collector of Customs ..	2,244	4	2			
Immigrants ..	10,879	0	0			
Alien Enemy Custodian ..	8,860	16	0			
Government Currency Notes ..	9,432	14	6½			
Planters' Immigration Fund ..	4,541	8	9½			
Miscellaneous ..	18,190	11	5			
Total Other Deposits ..				65,557	19	7
Total Liabilities ..				823,389	16	2½
Excess of Assets ..				437,705	5	6
Total ..				1,261,095	1	8½

PUBLIC DEBT.

5. The Funded Debt amounted at the 31st December, 1926 to £2,880,780 19s. 6d. During the year 1927, £48 of Scrip Certificates issued under Ordinance No. 15 of 1918; £3,540 of Debentures issued under Ordinance No. 2 of 1915 and £50,720 of Debentures issued under Ordinance No. 17 of 1921 were redeemed. The funded Debt therefore at the 31st December, 1927, was reduced by £54,308 and amounted to £2,826,472 19s. 6d. as shown as under:—

		£	s.	d.
4 per cent. Inscribed Stock—Ordinance 18 of 1890	..	322,592	19	6
4 per cent. do. —Ordinance 10 of 1892	..	100,000	0	0
3 per cent. do. —Ordinance 20 of 1894	..	400,000	0	0
3 per cent. do. —Ordinance 34 of 1895	..	100,000	0	0
3 per cent. do. —Ordinance 13 of 1896	..	100,000	0	0
4 per cent. do. —Ordinance 26 of 1912	..	550,000	0	0
4 per cent. Debentures —Ordinance 2 of 1915	..	59,700	0	0
6 per cent. do. —Ordinance 15 of 1918	..	94,180	0	0
6 per cent. do. —Ordinance 15 of 1920	..	1,000,000	0	0
6 per cent. do. —Ordinance 7 of 1921	..	100,000	0	0
Total	..	£2,826,472	19	6

In addition to the above the Colony is indebted to the Imperial Treasury in the sum of £455,382 under the following circumstances:—

In 1914 Ordinance 16 of 1914 was passed authorising the issue of a Loan for Railway and Road Extensions and, in anticipation of the issue of the Loan, expenditure was incurred which was met by advances from the Crown agents. On the outbreak of the war these advances were discontinued and £460,000 of the amount advanced was repaid to the Crown Agents by the Imperial Treasury, the balance being met from the proceeds of a Local Loan raised under Ordinance 2 of 1915.

The terms of repayment are:—

	£	s.	d.
£92,000 at £100 for each £95 bearing Interest at 3½ per cent.	96,842	2	1
£371,717 15s. 9d. at £105 5s. 3d. for each £100 bearing Interest at 5 per cent.	391,278	15	9
Total	£488,120	17	10

and to be refunded by half-yearly instalments of £13,762 13s. 4d. to cover both principal and interest. The amount repaid during the year was £5,893 9s. 5d., the balance now due being £455,382.

SINKING FUNDS.

6. The Sinking Funds for the redemption of the several Loans were increased during the year by £62,865 10s. 1d. as follows:—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
4 per cent. Inscribed Stock from	343,148	12	11	to	368,795	17	5
3 per cent. Inscribed Stock from	294,487	3	0	to	313,906	13	4
6 per cent. Debentures, 1918, from .. ..	..	..	..	to	3,681	0	0
6 per cent. Debentures, 1920, from	56,532	0	9	to	69,816	13	9
Gain on realisation of Invest- ments from	558	7	7	to	1,391	9	10
Total	£694,726	4	3	to	£757,591	14	4

and at the 31st December, 1927, the market value of the investments held for these Funds was:—

	£	s.	d.
4 per cent. Inscribed Stock	362,869	19	2
3 per cent. Inscribed Stock	302,736	13	6
6 per cent. Debentures, 1918	3,681	0	0
6 per cent. Debentures, 1920	69,700	18	10
Total	£738,988	11	6

INVESTMENTS.

7. The total Investments of the Colony and their Market Value at the close of the year were as under:—

	Price Paid.	Market Value.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Sinking Funds	757,591 14 4	738,988 11 6
Surplus Funds	118,449 0 5	112,909 3 5
Savings Bank	410,501 12 6	375,739 2 1
Gulf Steamers Depreciation Fund	22,599 7 2	21,162 7 0
Coastal Steamer Depreciation Fund	11,432 12 11	11,509 4 3
Dredger Depreciation Fund ..	676 0 0	667 12 1
Immigrants Repatriation Fund	14,843 2 10	14,843 2 10
Land Assurance Fund	3,984 8 8	3,984 8 8
Miscellaneous	211 12 2	211 12 2
Total	£1,340,289 11 0	£1,280,015 4 0

III.—PRODUCTION.

AGRICULTURE.

1. Weather conditions in 1927 were in marked contrast to those of 1926. In the latter year the dry season was exceptionally severe. At St. Clair Experiment Station the total fall from January to May was only 3.97 inches compared with 11.28 the average of the preceding 65 years. In the same five months of 1927 the

rainfall reached the extraordinary total of 24·94 inches. The annual totals for 1926 and 1927 respectively were 69·58 and 81·07 compared with the average of 63·61. These abnormal conditions had a marked effect on agricultural results.

2. *Cacao*.—In 1926 cacao suffered much from exceptional drought in the first part of the year, and unusually heavy rains later. The drought caused the death of, or severe injury to, large numbers of trees especially those in poor condition due to lack of proper care and attention during the previous years of unremunerative prices. It also favoured the activities of the cacao beetle, which did much more damage than in normal seasons.

The favourable season, for cacao, in 1927 has allowed many trees to recover and checked naturally the activities of the cacao beetle. Assistance was also given by the Government undertaking a special cacao beetle campaign, with ten Inspectors under a Supervisor. This has had a good result in causing many proprietors to do more work than hitherto in controlling the pest and generally caring for their trees.

As a net result there was a recovery, the crop being larger by nearly 2,000,000 lb. than that of 1926 and with improvement in prices worth approximately £400,000 more.

The felling of cacao in the less suitable districts to be replaced by sugar-cane is, however, being continued, and an early return to the high production figures of 1921 and 1923 is scarcely to be expected. It is largely dependent on the more general adoption of improved methods of cultivation and greater attention to plant sanitation.

The exports, quantities and values for the last five years have been :—

Year.		lb.		Value.
1927	...	51,934,857	...	£1,671,883
1926	...	50,067,881	...	1,270,335
1925	..	48,476,609	...	1,257,255
1924	...	56,402,755	...	1,165,816
1923	...	67,692,267	...	1,286,494

3. *Sugar*.—The severe dry season of 1926 was very favourable to the Froghopper pest (*Tomaspis saccharina*) which did great damage. In spite of this the Colony made its record crop 73,561 tons. In 1927 the weather conditions minimized Froghopper attacks and a crop at least equal to that of 1926 might have resulted. Unfortunately these same conditions made reaping so difficult that over 70,000 tons of cane had to be left uncut, and also caused the sucrose content to be abnormally low in the canes which were harvested. The result was that the production fell to 51,982 tons.

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Gulf Steamers Depreciation						
Fund	22,599	7	2	21,162	7	0
Coastal Steamer Depreciation						
Fund	11,432	12	11	11,509	4	3
Dredger Depreciation Fund ..	676	0	0	667	12	1
Immigrants Repatriation						
Fund	14,843	2	10	14,843	2	10
Land Assurance Fund	3,984	8	8	3,984	8	8
Miscellaneous	211	12	2	211	12	2
Total	£1,340,289	11	0	£1,280,015	4	0

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The effort to improve cultural operations on estates, noted in last year's report, have been continued. They were severely handicapped by the adverse weather conditions, the largest estate being practically unable to use its five and ten ton tractors.

The Froghopper Investigation Committee has actively continued its investigations for a second year.

It has established the fact, previously considered likely, that damage by Froghopper blight is largely determined by unfavourable, usually acid, soil conditions. Work is being continued to ascertain whether it will be possible, in estate practice, to correct this acidity.

The Department of Agriculture has continued the breeding and testing of new seedling canes (begun in 1917) and several promising Trinidad seedlings are now under trial on the estates.

Canes are grown not only by the Estates but by Cane Farmers, who sell usually on a sliding scale, to the factories.

The following tables give the total production of sugar and the relative proportions from estate and farmers canes, the exports of the various grades of sugar, &c. and the values of the exports for the past five years :—

Year.	Sugar made from Estate Canes.		Sugar made from Farmers' Canes.		Total.
	Tons.		Tons.		Tons.
1927	...	28,001	...	23,981	51,982
1926	...	39,489	...	34,072	73,561
1925	...	38,993	...	30,636	69,629
1924	...	30,862	...	10,757	41,619
1923	...	24,251	...	35,697	59,948

The exports for the last five years have been :—

		1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
Grey Crystal	tons	20,790	25,418	30,913	57,626	28,315
White Crystal	tons	3,117	3,222	2	3	3
Yellow Crystal	tons	8,009	13,478	25,751	6,138	12,814
Molasses Crystal	tons	1,553	1,461	2,886	1,411	570
Muscovado Sugar	tons	123	107	747	502	162
Refined	tons	1,931	737	849	250	—
Molasses	gallons	123,435	1,505,881	1,271,050	1,427,274	1,188,840
Rum	gallons	23,733	82,571	28,474	71,213	35,699
Bitters	gallons	46,361	44,569	58,336	56,599	55,152

		VALUES.				
		1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
Grey Crystal	...	£571,124	£598,373	£454,396	£871,156	£514,946
White Crystal	...	109,091	77,816	80	54	58
Yellow Crystal	...	296,181	488,552	567,192	107,186	235,840
Molasses Crystal	...	41,904	43,768	51,750	17,872	9,972
Muscovado Sugar	...	3,475	2,763	11,786	6,960	1,548
Refined	...	91,334	22,672	7,307	2	—
Molasses	...	2,913	24,843	29,639	14,330	14,471
Rum	...	5,132	18,063	5,819	10,933	8,155
Bitters	...	46,361	44,567	75,784	80,915	79,570

4. *Coconuts*.—The coconut industry continues to expand. There was a drop in exports in 1927 due to drought the previous year. Coconut diseases are better understood than formerly, particularly for example, the Red Ring disease, now known to be due to a *nematode worm*; although a tree once attacked cannot be cured the spread of the disease can be minimized by carefully following the control measures recommended.

Epidemic bud rot is almost negligible in the Colony. The other source of loss is due to Coconut Wilt; usually associated with unfavourable soil conditions and not, so far as investigations here or elsewhere show, to any organism such as a fungus.

On some estates attention along sound lines is being given to cultural and sanitary measures, with good results.

The exports for 1927 were:—

Coconuts	...	...	6,463,765 nuts.
Copra	...	...	12,498,983 lb.
Oil	...	...	58,061 gallons.

The trade in whole nuts, largely to the United States, for confectionery purposes, has declined since the war, copra being more remunerative.

Taking 1 lb. of copra as the equivalent of three nuts, and 1 gallon of oil as the equivalent of forty-five nuts, the total exports and the values for the last five years have been:—

			EXPORTS.	VALUES.
1927	...	...	46,573,459	£190,295
1926	...	...	50,343,619	296,771
1925	...	...	41,964,788	192,830
1924	...	...	45,351,339	222,764
1923	...	...	52,104,685	191,583

There is also a considerable local consumption both of nuts and oil.

5. *Coffee*.—Greatly increased attention has been given to this minor industry during the last few years, and some 500,000 lb. were exported in each of the years 1924–26. The subsequent fall has been due to weather conditions.

The varieties grown are *Coffea arabica*, *C. robusta* and *C. excelsa*.

The exports, quantities and values are given below:—

			EXPORTS.	VALUES.
1927	...	...	168,920 lb.	£ 7,288
1926	...	...	497,688 do.	20,871
1925	...	...	597,722 do.	28,202
1924	...	...	518,076 do.	15,873
1923	...	...	1,715 do.	57

6. *Fruit*.—Increased attention has continued to be given to the possibility of establishing an export trade in fruit. The report of the Imperial Economic Committee (1926), indicated that owing to the season for West Indian oranges coinciding with that of the enormous Mediterranean crop there was but little likelihood of the successful development of an orange trade with the United Kingdom.

On the other hand West Indian and South African grape fruit came in at different seasons, and as there is a better prospect for the Colony taking part in this rapidly expanding trade, increased planting has taken place, mainly of budded plants of good varieties prepared by the Department of Agriculture from trees introduced in 1914.

Some interest has also been shown in pineapples and the Department has under experimental trial under estate conditions, the best varieties obtainable locally, and by introduction from Costa Rica.

As regards bananas, another possible industry, the Jamaica (locally Gros Michel) banana is liable here, as in so many other countries, to Panama disease. The Canary (locally Governor) banana can be grown successfully. Experiments are being conducted with the Giant banana introduced from Grenada. This is somewhat similar to the Gros Michel but is much more resistant, possibly immune, to Panama disease.

The Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture and the Department have co-operated, through an informal Committee, on banana investigations. A full scheme of research work will now be carried out by the Imperial College with the financial help of the Empire Marketing Board.

The Fruit Growers' Association, founded in 1926, will be of valuable assistance in giving an impetus to further efforts.

The quantities and values of fruit exported follow :—

		<i>Exports.</i>		<i>Values.</i>
1927	...	—	...	£ 4,539
1926	...	1,273,090 No.	...	1,749
1925	...	1,388,674 „	...	1,636
1924	...	1,313 436 „	...	1,341
1923	...	710,717 „	...	1,270

7. *Food Crops*.—Considerable quantities of rice, corn (maize), yams, sweet potatoes, cassava, pigeon peas (*Cajanus*), tannias, bananas and plantains, &c., are produced for local consumption. To assist in the marketing of some of these products—known as ground provisions—the Government has maintained since 1917 a Government Provision Depôt, started as a War measure, and continued as a part of the Department of Agriculture. It has done useful work, and is self-supporting. A Fruit Depot was subsequently added.

8. *Live Stock*.—A Government Farm under the control of the Department of Agriculture has been in existence in Trinidad for some 50 years. A branch is maintained in Tobago. The Trinidad Farm supplies milk to the public institutions: it works for the improvement of the live stock of the Colony by keeping thoroughbred stud animals: horses, donkeys, cattle, pigs, Swiss goats, &c., and selling stock at an Annual Sale and otherwise. Bulls are bred on the Farm for service on public pastures throughout the Colony.

9. Tobago is a Ward of Trinidad and its exports out of the Colony all pass through Trinidad and are included in the general statistics of the Colony. It has also a considerable trade in minor products, vegetables, live stock, &c., with Trinidad itself. The total value of the Tobago trade in 1927 was £207,739, an increase of £107,000 over 1926, due in part to greater production, but principally to better prices.

The great progress made by Tobago in the last thirty years is shown by comparing the value of the chief products for 1897 and 1927:—

	1897.	1927.	1926.	1925.	1924.	1923.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cacao ..	1,671	140,477	57,854	36,152	42,892	28,738
Sugar and Molasses...	4,120	64	Nil	104	122	1,655
Coconuts, Copra and Oil	776	27,507	25,237	19,861	19,921	22,432
Vegetables and Fruits	151	21,423	3,954	13,314	6,486	9,895
Rubber ...	Nil	Nil	827	38	—	—
Tobacco ..	—	599	—	—	—	—
Live Stock	7,694	17,022	12,874	9,632	8,895	11,041
	<u>£14,412</u>	<u>207,092</u>	<u>100,768</u>	<u>87,820</u>	<u>91,138</u>	<u>77,323</u>

The Cacao Crop in 1927 was 4,495,258 lb., and the Coconut Crop, 95,800 nuts, and 3,276,817 lb. of copra, equivalent to a total of 9,926,251 nuts.

10. *Agricultural Credit Societies*.—The number of Societies in operation at the end of the year was thirty-four. The Director of Agriculture is Registrar. About two-thirds of the Societies are composed of cane farmers, the remainder, mostly in Tobago, of small proprietors, principally cultivators of cacao, but also of minor crops. Several of the Societies have continued to do excellent work.

11. *Agricultural Bank*.—The Agricultural Bank established by the Government in 1925 had by the close of 1927 advanced £142,968 15s. 0d. as loans on 233 properties. These loans are all secured by first mortgages, and are repayable over a period of thirty years. In addition £4,309 8s. 10d. was lent during

the year as temporary advances, usually repayable within one year. The Bank is able to assist both large and small cultivators, as shown by the fact that of the 1927 loans no less than 153 were made on properties of not more than 50 acres in area.

The properties on which loans are made are inspected regularly by Officers of the Department of Agriculture and steps taken to ensure that where necessary, efforts are made to remedy any cultural defects.

FORESTRY.

12. The total area of Forest land in the Colony is slightly over 1,000 square miles, practically all of which is under commercial timber. The area set aside for Forest Reserves amounts to 359 square miles or just over 18 per cent. of the total area of the Colony. In locating the Forest Reserves their indirect utility in maintaining favourable climatic conditions, conserving rainfall, maintaining humidity, preventing erosion, acting as wind-breaks, &c., was mainly considered; their management for the purpose of providing the Colony in perpetuity with timber, fuel wood and other forest products has in the past been regarded as a secondary consideration, but steadily increasing attention is now being directed to this question.

Within the Forest Reserves there are now approximately 1,408 acres of plantations (including experimental plots) of which the principal indigenous species, are:—Balsam (*Copaifera officinalis*, Jacq.), Black fiddlewood (? *Vitex divaricata* Sw.), Cedar (*Cedrela mexicana*, Roem.), Crappo (*Carapa guianensis*, Aubl.), Cypre (*Cordia alliodora*, Cham.), Galba (*Calophyllum antillanum*), Locust (*Hymenaea Courbaril*, L.) and Poui (*Tecoma serratifolia* Don.). Of exotics, Teak continues to show remarkably good results; it was first introduced from Burma in 1913, and some of the trees are now over 70 feet high and over 3 feet girth.

13. During 1927, approximately 60 acres of new plantations were formed under the Arena Reserve Working Plan, Crappo, Black fiddlewood and Galba being the species regenerated; on 28 acres Teak was introduced to augment the Cedar at Tamana under the Tamana Cedar Contracts Management Plan, whilst 15 acres of the older plantations in the Southern Watershed Reserve were underplanted with Crappo. Silvicultural research, particularly on Cedar, was continued and further valuable information obtained. The consumption of local timber in the Colony shows a large increase and a widely increased programme of regeneration under working plans is necessary to safeguard future supplies.

The experiments in the seasoning of local timbers were brought to a conclusion, only a small additional amount of seasoned wood being produced, principally Mora floor boards.

The experiments have fully demonstrated the possibility of producing, under proper handling, first class converted timber from indigenous trees; they have also clearly shown the necessity for the location of sawmills in the forest with consequent reduction of logging costs if the converted article is to be turned out at a competitive price.

A steadily increasing interest in Mora is being evinced by parties outside the Colony; the exhibits at the British Industries Fair are producing a crop of inquiries indicating the possibilities of commercial exploitation on a large scale. A consignment of Mora was sent to the Great Western Railway and was used in the construction of a Goods Shed platform at Newport, Monmouth; an eminently satisfactory report thereon has been received from the Engineer-in-Charge; satisfactory reports have also been received from local users of Mora floor boards, notably the Public Works Department. The Mora forest in the south-east of the Island is believed to cover about 100 square miles and to contain an approximate stand of 100,000,000 cubic feet; an enumeration survey made in 1926 of a small portion of the area disclosed a stand of 1,500 cubic feet per acre (quarter girth measurement over bark) of which four-fifths were Mora. It is a hard, heavy, durable wood and is one of the eight woods rated A1 at Lloyds.

14. The cut of timber of all kinds from Crown Lands during 1927 is estimated at 3,187,600 cubic feet of which about 1,855,400 cubic feet is estimated to consist of the less durable woods and of smaller (second storey) trees largely used for firewood and corduroy. These figures do not include wood cut from private lands, the quantities of which though comparatively small cannot be calculated. 62,282 cubic feet of Cedar logs value £8,082, Cedar boards to the value of £483 and other timber to the value of £128 were exported. One wood cutting concession covering 6,000 acres is held by a sawmill concern which turns out lumber for local use.

The following figures show the quantity and estimated value of timber cut during the past five years :—

<i>Year.</i>		<i>Quantity.</i>		<i>Value.</i>
		Cubic feet.		£
1923	...	1,901,800	...	114,900
1924	...	1,809,900	...	110,800
1925	...	2,213,800	...	135,600
1926	...	2,613,000	...	160,000
1927	...	3,187,600	...	250,000

Whilst the quantity and value of timber imported and exported during a corresponding period were as follows : —

YEAR.	IMPORTS.		EXPORTS.	
	QUANTITY.	VALUE.	QUANTITY.	VALUE.
	Sup. ft.	£	Sup. ft.	£
1923	11,500,005	144,880	122,287	1,832
1924	8,057,884	95,508	184,445	2,806
1925	8,856,924	90,812	671,008	5,596
1926	9,116,446	101,448	884,208	4,196
1927	14,140,460	140,515	789,968	8,698

15. Sixteen concessions covering about 59,469 acres are held by petroleum companies and are operated for the benefit of that industry. 7,672 licenses, mostly for less than 10 trees each and covering areas distributed throughout the Colony were granted during the year.

The Forest Revenue for 1927 amounted to the record figure of £25,054, exclusive of free timber to the value of £298 supplied to the Public Works Department, and the expenditure to £9,950 compared with £9,200 in 1926. The surplus of revenue over expenditure was £15,104. The total surplus of revenue over expenditure for the past 18 years is put at £76,801.

MINES.

16. The chief mineral industries of the Colony are Petroleum and Asphalt.

Coal, Iron, Graphite and Gypsum are known to occur in small quantities and traces of Gold have been found in the Northern Range, but none of these minerals have up to the present proved to be of economic importance.

PETROLEUM.

17. In the year 1856 a company operating at La Brea in the vicinity of the celebrated Pitch Lake, refined Local Asphalt for lamp and lubricating oils. In 1867 the first well was drilled for oil at Aripere and from that year to 1908 attempts followed with varying success. In 1908 the New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company drilled one of the first big wells, and in the year 1910 this Company exported the first steamship cargo of oil from the Island. The total production of petroleum in 1908 was approximately 6,000 gallons, in 1912, 15,300,000 gallons and in 1927, 188,316,240 gallons, an increase of 14,314,753 gallons on the production of 1926.

Practically all the Petroleum produced in Trinidad has been obtained from strata of Tertiary age. The Island is separated into two geological provinces by an East to West fault passing near Matura in the East to Port-of-Spain in the West. This fault divides the Metamorphic area of the Northern Range from the covering of Tertiary sediments to the South. The chief features of the Tertiary structure are : A synclinal basin between the Central and Northern Mountain Ranges : an anticlinal uplift along the South side of the Central range striking in an E.N.E.-W.S.W. direction from Pointe-à-Pierre to the Nariva Swamp ; and an undulating basin area between San Fernando, Mayaro Point, Guayaguayare Bay and Icacos Point with an East-West strike containing several zones of anticlinal and synclinal folding. These numerous local folds are important in the concentration of Petroleum and it is upon this latter area that the majority of the producing fields are situated. The average Specific Gravity of the Crude oil from the different fields varies from 0.9553 to 0.8015.

18. Two shallow wells were drilled in Tobago in the year 1911 without success.

19. At the end of 1927 there were fourteen companies actively engaged in the exploitation of oil in the Colony. These companies, having a total share capital of more than £14,000,000, held over 200,000 acres of Crown lands under Licenses and Leases, of which approximately 170,000 acres were held under Mining Lease. In addition, appreciable areas of private lands are held. Up to 17th January, 1902, oil rights were not reserved by the Government when disposing of Crown land, but after that year all Crown Grants reserve the oil rights to the Crown. There are, consequently, three categories of oil lands, viz. : lands disposed of prior to 1902 in which the oil rights rest in the surface owner. Land sold since that date in which the oil rights are reserved to the Crown, and lands where both the surface and the underlying oil remains the property of the Crown.

The principal oil producing companies are the Trinidad Leaseholds, Limited, from Crown and private lands at Fyzabad, Barrackpore, &c. ; the United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Limited, from Crown and private lands at Point Fortin, Parry Lands, &c. ; the Trinidad Lake Petroleum Company, Limited, from their own lands at Brighton ; the Petroleum Development Company, Limited, from Crown lands in the Ward of Oropuche ; the Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields, Limited, from Crown and private lands at Fyzabad ; the Trinidad Central Oilfields, Limited, from Crown lands at Tabaquite ; the Kern (Trinidad) Oilfields, Limited, from Crown and private lands at Guapo ; the Trinidad Oilfields Operating Co., Ltd., from private lands at Palo Seco, Fyzabad and San Francique and the Trinidad Petroleum

Development Co., Ltd., from Crown and private lands at Naparima, Palo Seco and Cedros. There are five refineries at work in the Colony situated at Pointe-à-Pierre and Forest Reserve, Point Fortin, Brighton and Tabaquite, and all grades of petroleum products from Petrol to Road Oil are produced.

Eighty-four wells with a total footage of 109,374 were drilled on Crown lands and seventy-four wells with a total footage of 115,174 were drilled on private lands during the year. The total number of wells drilled to date in the Colony is 1,312, of which 823 are on Crown lands and 489 on private lands. The total quantity of oil produced during 1927 was 188,316,240 gallons, an increase of 14,314,753 gallons over the production for 1926. Of this total, 82,675,250 gallons were from Crown lands or lands in which the oil rights belonged to the Crown. The Royalty paid by operating Companies on oil, won from Crown rights during the year 1927 amounted to £39,965 as against £54,950 in 1926, and wayleaves to £14,560 as against £12,826 in 1926. The quantity of crude oil and products exported amounted to 155,986,964 gallons valued at £2,326,361 as against 139,590,781 gallons valued at £1,871,851 in 1926. The exports in 1927 formed 38·9 per cent. of the total exports of the Colony and exceeded in value the exports of the four other staple products of the Colony, viz. :—

Cocoa	...	...	£1,671,883
Sugar, Molasses and Rum	...	...	784,990
Asphalt	...	...	464,458
Coconuts and Coconut products			179,193

The following comparative statement shows the exports of petroleum products during the last five years :—

QUANTITIES IN GALLONS.

1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
85,186,457	112,858,523	126,231,287	139,590,781	155,986,964

VALUES.

£	£	£	£	£
1,233,187	1,367,160	1,560,579	1,871,851	2,326,361

ASPHALT.

20. The Pitch Lake situated in the Ward of La Brea, comprising 114 acres, was first leased as a whole in 1888 for 21 years, and in accordance with the terms of the lease, it was renewed for a further period of 21 years from the 1st February, 1909, to the 31st January, 1930.

On the 19th February, 1925, a fresh demise of the Pitch Lake comprising 109 acres was made to the Trinidad Lake Asphalt, Limited, for 21 years from the 1st February, 1930, on payment of the following Royalties and Export Duties :—

For each ton of 2,240 lb. of Crude Pitch or Asphaltum a Royalty of 2s. 6d. and an Export duty of 5s.,

For each ton of 2,240 lb. of Dried Pitch or Asphaltum a Royalty of 3s. 6d. and an Export duty of 6s. 11d., being an increase of 10d. and 1s. 2d. per ton respectively on the Royalties previously paid on Crude and Dried Asphalt.

The payment of the increased Royalties was to be operative as from the date of the execution of the new lease and realized £9,855 in 1926 and £10,226 in 1927.

The quantity of Asphalt produced during 1927 was 242,131 tons as against 237,300 tons in 1926.

EXPORTS OF ASPHALT FOR THE YEARS 1923-1927.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Quantity (tons)</i>	<i>Value (£)</i>
1923	172,369	377,814
1924	169,397	385,949
1925	157,986	360,062
1926	180,950½	451,967
1927	186,363½	464,475

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

IMPORTS.

1. The c.i.f. value of the total imports amounted to £5,082,871 of which goods valued at £5,060,888 were cleared for home consumption. In addition, goods valued at £707,152 were entered for transshipment giving a total import trade of £5,790,023, an increase as compared with 1926 of £629,785.

2. The nature and value of the imports (excluding transshipments) for the last five years were as under :—

	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
	£	£	£	£	£
Class 1—Food, Drink and Tobacco ...	1,830,303	1,715,456	1,874,307	1,844,872	1,920,547
Class 2—Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured ...	452,567	360,350	331,470	329,817	358,046
Class 3—Articles wholly or mainly manufactured ...	1,991,870	2,181,502	2,130,161	2,163,807	2,770,568
Class 4—Miscellaneous and unclassified articles ...	9,978	15,784	10,123	10,382	22,733
Class 5—Bullion and Specie...	34,703	14,851	48,980	58,196	10,977
Total ...	4,319,421	4,287,943	4,395,041	4,407,074	5,082,871

3. The following table gives the direction of the import trade for the last five years :—

	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
	£	£	£	£	£
U. Kingdom ...	1,371,012 30·38%	1,403,819 34·57%	1,326,423 31·00%	1,237,905 28·66%	1,581,941 31·63%
Canada ...	866,933 20·49 ..	814,386 20·05 ..	964,035 22·53 ..	902,223 21·06 ..	966,406 19·44 ..
Other British Possessions ...	365,427 8·64 ..	318,503 7·84 ..	365,321 8·54 ..	418,886 9·78 ..	368,143 7·41 ..
United States ...	1,066,855 25·21 ..	934,845 23·02 ..	952,836 22·27 ..	1,181,378 27·58 ..	1,378,482 27·74 ..
Venezuela ...	360,345 8·52 ..	293,065 7·22 ..	349,772 8·17 ..	197,853 4·68 ..	292,330 5·88 ..
France ...	63,671 1·50 ..	74,750 1·84 ..	84,010 1·96 ..	96,744 2·23 ..	121,742 2·46 ..
Germany ...	38,937 ·92 ..	58,654 1·39 ..	49,226 1·15 ..	58,960 1·37 ..	67,688 1·36 ..
O. Countries...	198,217 4·34 ..	162,969 4·07 ..	187,363 4·34 ..	201,276 4·70 ..	193,494 3·89 ..
	4,231,397	4,061,011	4,278,986	4,284,225	4,970,226
Parcel Post ...	88,024	226,932	116,055	122,849	112,645

4. While there was an increase of 3·17 per cent. in the proportion of imports from the United Kingdom, those from Canada and Other British Possessions show a decrease of 1·62 per cent. and 2·37 per cent. respectively. Of Foreign Countries trade with Venezuela shows the greatest increase (1·26 per cent.), while there are also small increases in the case of the United States (·16 per cent.) and France (·22 per cent.) There was a decrease of ·01 per cent. and ·81 per cent. respectively in the volume of imports from Germany and Other Foreign Countries. Imports from Empire Countries for 1927 show a net decrease of ·82 per cent. with a corresponding increase from Foreign Countries.

5. The character and size of the Import Trade in the principal commodities, with sources of supply, is shewn hereunder :—

<i>Articles and Country whence consigned.</i>	<i>Total Imports.</i>	
	<i>Quantities.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
ANIMALS AND BIRDS, LIVING :		£
United Kingdom	3,779
Canada	2,159
Other British Possessions	6,414
Other Countries	78
United States of America	14,557
Venezuela	71,832
Total	98,819

*Articles and Country whence consigned.**Total Imports.**Quantities. Value.*

APPAREL, all kinds :						£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	..	..	34,725
Canada	..	..	..	..	..	1,783
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	..	..	243
France	..	..	..	..	..	715
Germany	..	..	..	..	..	994
United States of America	..	..	..	..	..	15,528
Venezuela	..	..	..	..	..	289
Other Countries	..	..	..	..	..	2,134
Total	..	..	..	..	..	56,411

BAGS AND SACKS (empty) not including paper bags :

				Dozen.	£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	6,435	3,736
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	69,992	48,439
United States of America	..	..	..	2,943	1,374
Total	..	..	..	79,370	53,549

BEER AND ALE, STOUT AND PORTER :

				Gallons.		£
				Liquid.	Standard	
United Kingdom	..	..	..	133,791	150,431	34,940
Germany	..	..	..	8,595	9,270	1,743
Other Countries	..	..	..	23,107	24,712	4,691
Total	..	..	..	164,493	184,413	41,374

BOOTS, SHOES AND SLIPPERS :

				Dozen		£
				pairs.		
United Kingdom	..	..	..	16,534		65,049
Canada	..	..	..	13,699		26,689
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	61		83
France	..	..	..	192		149
Germany	..	..	..	24		43
United States of America	..	..	..	2,133		5,275
Venezuela	..	..	..	5		9
Other Countries	..	..	..	1,634		1,094
Total	..	..	..	34,282		98,391

BUTTER AND BUTTER SUBSTITUTES :

				lb.		£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	135,036		8,237
Canada	..	..	..	222,296		18,738
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	61,600		4,384
France	..	..	..	815,614		49,274
Germany	..	..	..	112		4
United States of America	..	..	..	95,821		5,636
Other Countries	..	..	..	118,895		7,190
Total	..	..	..	1,449,374		93,463

<i>Articles and Country whence consigned.</i>						<i>Total Imports.</i>	
						<i>Quantities.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
CARRIAGES, CARTS AND WAGGONS :							
Bicycles or Tricycles (including Motor) and parts thereof :							£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	..	..	23,275	23,275
Canada	..	..	..	..	..	24	24
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	..	..	13	13
France	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Germany	..	..	..	..	..	206	206
United States of America	..	..	..	..	..	237	237
Other Countries	..	..	..	..	..	20	20
Total ..						23,776	
 Motor Cars, Lorries and Vans :							
						No.	£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	..	..	70	14,317
Canada	..	..	..	..	..	325	41,110
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	..	..	3	275
United States of America	..	..	..	..	..	123	27,011
Venezuela	..	..	..	..	..	3	1,100
Other Countries	..	..	..	..	..	2	430
Total ..						526	84,243
 Other Kinds and parts thereof :							
							£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	..	..	14,315	14,315
Canada	..	..	..	..	..	31,981	31,981
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	..	..	29	29
France	..	..	..	..	..	1,142	1,142
Germany	..	..	..	..	..	224	224
United States of America	..	..	..	..	..	37,404	37,404
Venezuela	..	..	..	..	..	545	545
Other Countries	..	..	..	..	..	3,249	3,249
Total ..						88,889	
 CATTLE AND OTHER ANIMAL FOODS :							
						lb.	£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	..	..	5,909	143
Canada	..	..	..	..	..	4,045,055	22,149
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	..	..	209,527	670
United States of America	..	..	..	..	..	604,076	3,281
Other Countries	..	..	..	..	..	1,032,680	4,114
Total ..						5,897,247	30,357
 CEMENT :							
						Bris. of 400 lb.	£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	..	..	48,801	30,829
Canada	..	..	..	..	..	11,655	6,391
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Germany	..	..	..	..	..	2,416	1,173
United States of America	..	..	..	..	..	231	407
Other Countries	..	..	..	..	..	8,851	4,661
Total ..						71,955	43,462

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, 1927.

27

Total Imports.

Articles and Country whence consigned.				Quantities.	Value.
					£
CHEMICALS, all kinds :					
United Kingdom	..	..	..	..	16,989
Canada	..	..	..	..	1,079
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	..	2
France	..	..	..	..	16
Germany	..	..	..	..	616
United States of America	..	..	..	..	6,440
Other Countries	..	..	..	..	1,364
Total	..	..	..	..	26,506
COAL, COKE AND PATENT FUEL :					
				tons.	£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	15,831	26,762
United States of America	..	..	..	44,346	66,410
Other Countries	..	..	..	20	33
Total	..	..	..	60,197	93,205
CORDAGE AND TWINE :					
				lb.	£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	319,068	11,265
Canada	..	..	..	210,084	6,592
Germany	..	..	..	1,639	82
United States of America	..	..	..	48,749	3,146
Other Countries	..	..	..	26,580	782
Total	..	..	..	606,120	21,867
COTTON, manufactures of :					
Piece Goods :				Yds.	£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	7,141,900	201,140
Canada	..	..	..	4,592	349
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	1,142	111
France	..	..	..	1,569	160
Germany	..	..	..	16,377	747
United States of America	..	..	..	3,236,492	66,273
Other Countries	..	..	..	20,568	1,056
Total	..	..	..	10,422,640	269,836
Other kinds :					
					£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	..	51,906
Canada	..	..	..	..	2,535
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	..	10,096
France	..	..	..	..	488
Germany	..	..	..	..	2,461
United States of America	..	..	..	..	23,898
Venezuela	..	..	..	..	101
Other Countries	..	..	..	..	2,620
Total	..	..	..	..	94,105

<i>Articles and Country whence consigned.</i>						<i>Total Imports.</i>	
						<i>Quantities.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
ELECTRICAL APPARATUS :						£	
United Kingdom	..	..	..	..	..	9,525	
Canada	..	..	..	..	..	1,946	
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	..	..	11	
Germany	..	..	..	..	..	809	
United States of America	..	..	..	..	..	20,248	
Other Countries	..	..	..	..	..	320	
Total	..	..	..	..	..	32,859	
FISH :						lb.	£
Canned or preserved in bottles or jars :							
United Kingdom	..	..	..	..	..	26,258	1,297
Canada	..	..	..	..	..	476,308	15,956
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	..	..	1,324	114
France	..	..	..	..	..	2,579	299
United States of America	..	..	..	..	..	46,857	2,471
Other Countries	..	..	..	..	..	10,409	617
Total	..	..	..	..	..	563,735	20,754
Dried, salted, smoked or pickled :						lb.	£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	..	..	120,160	1,822
Canada	..	..	..	..	..	5,291,300	75,589
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	..	..	1,170,011	15,376
United States of America	..	..	..	..	..	12,497	301
Venezuela	..	..	..	..	..	33,280	200
Other Countries	..	..	..	..	..	1,630	211
Total	..	..	..	..	..	6,628,878	93,499
GRAIN, FLOUR, PULSE AND PREPARATIONS THEREOF :						lb.	£
Oats :							
United Kingdom	..	..	..	..	..	16,000	98
Canada	..	..	..	..	..	4,956,300	24,963
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	..	..	12,000	66
United States of America	..	..	..	..	..	3,413	34
Other Countries	..	..	..	..	..	16,100	94
Total	..	..	..	..	..	5,003,813	25,255
Rice :						lb.	£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	..	..	112,000	916
Canada	..	..	..	..	..	100	1
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	..	..	27,771,091	201,644
Venezuela	..	..	..	..	..	231	3
Other Countries	..	..	..	..	..	36,464	244
Total	..	..	..	..	..	27,919,886	202,808
Flour, Wheaten :						Bags of 196 lb.	£
Canada	..	..	..	..	..	284,250	423,716
United States of America	..	..	..	..	..	1,538	2,482
Total	..	..	..	..	..	285,788	426,198

*Total Imports.**Articles and Country whence consigned.**Quantities. Value.*

Pulse :				lb.	£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	..2,029,975	16,821
Canada	..	..	..	.. 5,350	44
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	..2,107,602	16,617
France	..	..	..	.. 79,865	963
United States of America	..	..	..	.. 46,942	839
Venezuela	..	..	..	.. 111,478	946
Other Countries	..	..	..	.. 226,048	2,839
Total	..	..	..	..4,607,260	39,069

All other kinds :				lb.	£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	.. 165,713	3,448
Canada	..	..	..	.. 68,911	1,154
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	.. 71,002	806
United States of America	..	..	..	..1,153,738	10,183
Venezuela	..	..	..	..1,034,282	3,960
Other Countries	..	..	..	.. 634,645	3,157
Total	..	..	..	..3,128,291	22,708

HARDWARE :					£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	..	45,841
Canada	..	..	..	..	2,538
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	..	195
France	..	..	..	..	445
Germany	..	..	..	..	8,434
United States of America	..	..	..	..	29,882
Other Countries	..	..	..	..	1,213
Total	..	..	..	..	88,548

HATS AND BONNETS :					£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	..	34,681
Canada	..	..	..	..	1
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	..	424
France	..	..	..	..	690
Germany	..	..	..	..	1,522
United States of America	..	..	..	..	546
Venezuela	..	..	..	..	166
Other Countries	..	..	..	..	3,763
Total	..	..	..	..	41,793

IMPLEMENTS AND TOOLS :					£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	..	21,956
Canada	..	..	..	..	804
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	..	12
France	..	..	..	..	25
Germany	..	..	..	..	685
United States of America	..	..	..	..	24,105
Other Countries	..	..	..	..	738
Total	..	..	..	..	48,325

<i>Articles and Country whence consigned.</i>				<i>Total Imports.</i>	
				<i>Quantities.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
LARD AND LARD SUBSTITUTES :				lb.	£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	..1,709,204	41,441
Canada	..	..	..	..1,259,201	29,664
United States of America	..	..	..	.. 49,124	1,913
Venezuela	..	..	..	.. 573	25
Other Countries	..	..	..	.. 50	2
Total	..	..	..	..3,018,152	73,045
MACHINERY, including parts and Accessories :					
Sugar :					£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	..	28,725
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	..	3
United States of America	..	..	..	..	9,641
Total	..	..	..	..	38,369
Mining :					£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	..	132,550
Canada	..	..	..	..	12,027
Germany	..	..	..	..	700
United States of America	..	..	..	..	522,345
Other Countries	..	..	..	..	4,683
Total	..	..	..	..	672,305
Other kinds :					£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	..	59,456
Canada	..	..	..	..	55
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	..	371
France	..	..	..	..	339
Germany	..	..	..	..	2,111
United States of America	..	..	..	..	26,489
Venezuela	..	..	..	..	11
Other Countries	..	..	..	..	3,643
Total	..	..	..	..	92,475
MEATS :					
Beef and Pork, pickled or salted :				lb.	£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	.. 373,300	7,846
Canada	..	..	..	..1,032,599	17,749
United States of America	..	..	..	..1,937,700	48,331
Other Countries	..	..	..	.. 11,174	254
Total	..	..	..	..3,354,773	74,180
Smoked or Cured, including bacon and ham :				lb.	£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	.. 76,082	5,979
Canada	..	..	..	.. 48,824	2,898
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	.. 30	1
France	..	..	..	.. 55	7
Germany	..	..	..	.. 20	1
United States of America	..	..	..	.. 283,634	11,617
Venezuela	..	..	..	.. 330	8
Other Countries	..	..	..	.. 253,514	6,112
Total	..	..	..	.. 662,489	26,623

<i>Articles and Country whence consigned.</i>					<i>Total Imports.</i>	
					<i>Quantities.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
Other kinds :					lb.	£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	..	47,766	4,484
Canada	..	..	..	..	21,027	1,071
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	..	124	4
France	..	..	..	..	1,450	245
Germany	..	..	..	..	40	3
United States of America	..	..	..	..	26,515	2,066
Venezuela	..	..	..	..	60	1
Other Countries	..	..	..	..	149,285	5,394
Total	..	..	..	..	246,267	13,268
MEDICINES AND DRUGS :						£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	..	..	18,779
Canada	..	..	..	..	..	3,240
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	..	..	3,153
France	..	..	..	..	..	868
Germany	..	..	..	..	..	1,293
United States of America	..	..	..	..	..	9,875
Venezuela	..	..	..	..	..	1
Other Countries	..	..	..	..	..	636
Total	..	..	..	..	..	37,845
METALS :						£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	..	..	91,756
Canada	..	..	..	..	..	6,215
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	..	..	2,378
France	..	..	..	..	..	39
Germany	..	..	..	..	..	1,515
United States of America	..	..	..	..	..	36,103
Venezuela	..	..	..	..	..	111
Other Countries	..	..	..	..	..	8,404
Total	..	..	..	..	..	146,521
MILK, condensed or otherwise preserved :					Cases of	
					48 lb.	£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	..	33,774	57,098
Canada	..	..	..	..	11,323	18,539
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	..	580	1,080
France	..	..	..	..	1,702	1,878
Germany	..	..	..	..	275	344
United States of America	..	..	..	..	1,904½	2,576
Other Countries	..	..	..	..	15,687½	18,980
Total	..	..	..	..	65,246	100,495
OIL :						
Edible :					galls.	£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	..	81,861	16,834
Canada	..	..	..	..	1,284	273
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	..	5,029	1,269
France	..	..	..	..	17,533	11,819
United States of America	..	..	..	..	1,000	411
Other Countries	..	..	..	..	612	155
Total	..	..	..	..	107,319	30,761

<i>Articles and Country whence consigned.</i>						<i>Total Imports.</i>	
						<i>Quantities.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
Illuminating :						<i>galls.</i>	<i>£</i>
United States of America	..	..	..	..	..	200,328	15,190
Total	..	..	..	..	..	200,328	15,190
Lubricating :						<i>galls.</i>	<i>£</i>
United Kingdom	..	..	..	..	..	66,311	7,894
Canada	..	..	..	..	..	661	115
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	..	..	446	65
United States of America	..	..	..	..	..	138,993	17,383
Total	..	..	..	..	..	206,411	25,457
Other kinds :						<i>galls.</i>	<i>£</i>
United Kingdom	..	..	..	..	..	30,595	6,513
Canada	..	..	..	..	..	427	940
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	..	..	270	82
France	..	..	..	..	..	34	49
Germany	..	..	..	..	..	71	74
United States of America	..	..	..	..	..	18,243	1,922
Venezuela	..	..	..	..	..	42	5
Other Countries	..	..	..	..	..	52	125
Total	..	..	..	..	..	49,734	9,710
PAINTER'S COLOURS AND MATERIALS :							<i>£</i>
United Kingdom	..	..	..	..	..	..	17,162
Canada	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,160
Germany	..	..	..	..	..	..	137
United States of America	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,310
Other Countries	..	..	..	..	..	..	270
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	27,039
PAPER :							<i>£</i>
United Kingdom	..	..	..	..	..	..	34,556
Canada	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,379
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	..	..	..	137
France	..	..	..	..	..	..	669
Germany	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,790
United States of America	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,418
Other Countries	..	..	..	..	..	..	13,560
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	67,499
SILK AND SILK MANUFACTURES :							<i>£</i>
United Kingdom	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,924
Canada	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,595
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	..	..	..	205
France	..	..	..	..	..	..	550
Germany	..	..	..	..	..	..	469
United States of America	..	..	..	..	..	..	908
Venezuela	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Other Countries	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,789
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	22,451

<i>Articles and Country whence consigned.</i>				<i>Total Imports.</i>	
				<i>Quantities.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
SOAP :				lb.	£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	.. 3,520,041	55,540
Canada	..	..	..	.. 251,327	4,562
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	.. 2,585	47
France	..	..	..	.. 2,248	197
Germany	..	..	..	.. 32,931	485
United States of America	..	..	..	.. 177,763	4,194
Other Countries	..	..	..	.. 229,950	3,108
Total	..	..	..	.. 4,216,845	68,133
SPIRITS :				Galls.	£
Whiskey :					
United Kingdom	..	..	..	.. 10,215	12,511
Canada	..	..	..	.. 1,878	1,794
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	.. 6	9
Total	..	..	..	.. 12,099	14,314
Other kinds—Potable :				Galls.	£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	.. 5,586	7,141
Canada	..	..	..	.. 414	705
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	.. 1,590	607
France	..	..	..	.. 6,881	8,185
Germany	..	..	..	.. 29	52
United States of America	..	..	..	.. 2,530	5,146
Venezuela	..	..	..	.. 314	173
Other Countries	..	..	..	.. 2,902	2,291
Total	..	..	..	.. 20,246	24,300
Other kinds—Not potable :				Galls.	£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	.. 1,699	890
Canada	..	..	..	.. 11	12
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	.. 5,669	1,183
France	..	..	..	.. 831	2,473
Germany	..	..	..	.. 173	819
United States of America	..	..	..	.. 446	1,522
Venezuela	..	..	..	.. 1	3
Other Countries	..	..	..	.. 569	357
Total	..	..	..	.. 9,399	7,259
SUGAR—Refined :				lb.	£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	.. 16,347	212
Canada	..	..	..	.. 3,163,633	31,051
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	.. 5,000	53
United States of America	..	..	..	.. 708	16
Venezuela	..	..	..	.. 50	1
Total	..	..	..	.. 3,185,738	31,333

				<i>Total Imports.</i>	
<i>Articles and Country whence consigned.</i>				<i>Quantities.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
TEA :				lb.	£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	119,703	12,291
Canada	..	..	..	5,971	707
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	30,740	2,161
United States of America	..	..	..	3,555	240
Other Countries	..	..	..	6,966	307
Total	..	..	..	166,935	15,706
TOBACCO :				lb.	£
Unmanufactured—Leaf :					
United States of America	..	..	..	452,386	32,589
Other Countries	..	..	..	1,444	143
Total	..	..	..	453,830	32,732
Manufactured :				lb.	£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	21,694	10,073
Canada	..	..	..	1,000	297
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	1,394	1,150
France	..	..	..	195	36
United States of America	..	..	..	4,561	1,262
Venezuela	..	..	..	222	83
Other Countries	..	..	..	1,048	807
Total	..	..	..	30,114	13,708
WINES :				Galls.	£
Vermouth :					
France	..	..	..	53,776	25,617
Venezuela	..	..	..	3	2
Other Countries	..	..	..	13,405	6,162
Total	..	..	..	67,184	31,781
Other kinds :				Galls.	£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	6,348	5,625
Canada	..	..	..	145	124
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	83	86
France	..	..	..	18,077	7,606
Germany	..	..	..	104	153
United States of America	..	..	..	168	193
Venezuela	..	..	..	2	1
Other Countries	..	..	..	18,882	6,465
Total	..	..	..	43,809	20,253
WOOD AND TIMBER :					£
Unmanufactured :					
United Kingdom	..	..	..	..	287
Canada	..	..	..	..	54,350
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	..	631
United States of America	..	..	..	..	134,148
Venezuela	..	..	..	..	2
Other Countries	..	..	..	..	17
Total	..	..	..	..	189,435

<i>Articles and Country whence consigned.</i>					<i>Total Imports.</i>
					<i>Quantities. Value.</i>
Manufactured :					£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	..	3,648
Canada	..	..	..	..	4,074
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	..	1,883
France	..	..	..	..	43
Germany	..	..	..	..	4,163
United States of America	..	..	..	..	2,717
Venezuela	..	..	..	..	150
Other Countries	..	..	..	..	2,031
Total	..	..	..	..	18,709
WOOLLEN MANUFACTURES :					£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	..	45,194
Canada	..	..	..	..	24
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	..	58
France	..	..	..	..	135
Germany	..	..	..	..	209
United States of America	..	..	..	..	77
Other Countries	..	..	..	..	326
Total	..	..	..	..	46,023

6. The figures given do not include parcel post the value of which is shown separately, and of which it is estimated that 70 per cent. was from the United Kingdom, 20 per cent. from the United States, 5 per cent. from Canada and 5 per cent. from Other Countries.

EXPORTS.

7. The f.o.b. value of the exports for the year amounted to £6,018,864, of which £5,588,091 represented the value of local products and manufactures, and £430,773 of re-exports. The value of goods transhipped amounted to £707,152 giving a total export trade of £6,726,016. As compared with 1926 there was an increase of £581,136 in the value of the exports of local products.

8. The value of the exports for the last five years is given below, the products of the Colony being shown separately from re-exports and transit goods :—

	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
	£	£	£	£	£
Local Produce	4,298,378	4,521,225	4,677,148	5,006,955	5,588,091
Re-exports	487,216	372,638	493,207	539,421	430,773
Total	4,785,594	4,893,863	5,170,355	5,546,376	6,018,864
Transit Goods	518,407	484,168	756,338	753,164	707,152
Total	5,304,001	5,378,031	5,926,693	6,299,540	6,726,016

9. Dividing the exports (exclusive of transshipments) into classes, their nature and value were as under :—

	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
	£	£	£	£	£
Class I—Food, Drink and Tobacco ...	2,720,037	2,711,618	2,837,841	2,727,121	2,866,120
Class II—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Un-manufactured	1,956,173	2,085,957	2,182,751	2,736,003	3,075,647
Class III—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured..	79,896	73,273	88,823	55,426	58,294
Class IV—Miscellaneous and Unclassified ...	2,591	4,427	4,755	695	2,290
Class V—Bullion and Specie...	26,897	18,588	56,185	27,131	16,523
Total ...	4,785,594	4,893,863	5,170,355	5,546,376	6,018,864

10. The quantity and value of the principal products exported during the year were :—

Asphalt (including Manjak) ...	196,363½ tons ...	£ 464,475
Bitters ...	55,152 gals. ...	79,570
Cocoa ...	51,934,857 lb. ...	1,671,883
Coconuts ...	6,463,765 nuts ...	32,298
Copra ...	12,498,983 lb. ...	146,895
Molasses ...	1,188,840 gals. ...	14,471
Rum ...	35,699 gals. ...	8,155
Sugar ...	41,805 tons ..	762,366
Petroleum, Crude and Fuel ...	126,101,177 gals. ...	1,310,356
Petrol Spirit ...	28,444,066 gals. ..	951,666
Refined Kerosene ...	1,324,965 gals. ...	57,916

11. The following table gives the direction of the export trade for the last five years :—

	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
	£	£	£	£	£
U. Kingdom ...	2,300,625 45·96%	2,356,527 46·00%	2,471,340 47·80%	1,627,980 29·35%	1,573,014 26·13%
Canada ...	315,177 5·69 ..	465,774 9·52 ..	272,043 5·26 ..	658,120 11·87 ..	421,156 7·00 ..
O. B. Posses- sions	281,771 5·69 ..	335,636 6·65 ..	365,626 7·07 ..	488,777 8·83 ..	651,251 10·82 ..
United States..	1,086,034 22·69 ..	1,077,191 22·01 ..	1,129,470 21·85 ..	1,762,278 31·71 ..	1,729,598 28·73 ..
Venezuela ...	45,379 ·95 ..	34,812 ·77 ..	53,924 1·04 ..	40,966 ·74 ..	58,707 ·96 ..
France ...	340,786 7·12 ..	195,368 3·99 ..	260,951 5·22 ..	208,312 3·76 ..	438,871 7·29 ..
Germany ...	91,118 1·90 ..	110,922 2·27 ..	109,992 2·13 ..	69,002 1·25 ..	189,356 3·15 ..
O. Countries ...	277,620 5·80 ..	252,967 5·17 ..	278,351 5·38 ..	455,832 8·24 ..	634,269 10·54 ..
Ships' Stores and Bunkers	147,284 3·08 ..	175,646 3·69 ..	219,758 4·25 ..	235,069 4·25 ..	322,652 5·36 ..
Total ...	4,785,594	4,893,863	5,170,355	5,546,376	6,018,864

12. There has been a further fall in the percentage of exports to the United Kingdom of 3.22 per cent., while Canada took 4.87 per cent. less of our products than she did in 1926. Other British Possessions increased by 1.95 per cent. There was a decrease of 2.98 per cent. to the United States, but increases to France (3.53 per cent.), Germany (1.90 per cent.), Venezuela (2.24 per cent.), other foreign countries (2.30 per cent.) and Ships' Stores and Bunkers (1.11 per cent.). The net result of the export trade for 1927 shows that there was a decrease to Empire countries of 6.10 per cent. and an increase to foreign countries of 5.04 per cent.

13. The character and size of the Export Trade in the principal commodities, with sources of destination, is shown hereunder :—

<i>Articles and Countries of final destination.</i>				<i>Total Exports.</i>	
				<i>Quantities.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
ASPHALT :					
Crude :				tons.	£
United States of America	..	..	..	46,915	46,915
Total ..	..	..	..	46,915	46,915
Dried :					
				tons.	£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	56,828	170,550
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	13,379	40,137
France	..	..	..	5,310	15,930
Germany	..	..	..	4,100	12,300
United States of America	..	..	..	30,013	89,189
Other Countries	..	..	..	29,815	89,436
Total ..	..	..	..	139,445	417,542
Cocoa, Raw :					
				lb.	£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	4,977,793	168,825
Canada	..	..	..	2,686,735	86,920
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	2,309,137	80,218
France	..	..	..	10,650,794	343,609
Germany	..	..	..	3,365,910	108,536
United States of America	..	..	..	25,431,767	797,590
Other Countries	..	..	..	8,997,901	291,328
Total ..	..	..	..	58,420,037	1,877,026
COFFEE, Raw :					
				lb.	£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	4,285	244
Canada	..	..	..	119,800	5,130
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	41,125	1,902
France	..	..	..	710	34
United States of America	..	..	..	500	21
Other Countries	..	..	..	360	13
Total ..	..	..	..	166,780	7,347

<i>Articles and Countries of final destination.</i>				<i>Total Exports.</i>	
				<i>Quantities.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
COCONUTS :				No.	£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	641,405	3,259
Canada	..	..	..	1,000,575	4,614
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	500	3
United States of America	..	..	..	4,821,285	24,422
Total	..	..	..	6,463,765	32,298
RUBBER :				lb.	£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	141,803	11,622
Other Countries	..	..	..	384	13
Total	..	..	..	142,187	11,635
COPRA :				lb.	£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	2,217,420	25,158
France	..	..	..	177,424	1,849
Germany	..	..	..	4,182,812	49,753
Other Countries	..	..	..	5,960,027	70,538
Total	..	..	..	12,537,683	147,298
OIL :				galls.	£
Coconut :					
United Kingdom	..	..	..	13,631	2,374
Canada	..	..	..	2,430	400
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	7,097	1,312
Venezuela	..	..	..	80	26
Other Countries	..	..	..	34,823	6,990
Total	..	..	..	58,061	11,102
Mineral Petroleum, Crude :				galls.	£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	139	11
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	18,512	642
United States of America	..	..	..	15,762,183	115,670
Venezuela	..	..	..	7,545	57
Total	..	..	..	15,788,379	116,280
Fuel :				galls.	£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	48,631,870	539,710
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	12,043,062	155,464
France	..	..	..	7,250,074	75,544
Germany	..	..	..	1,514,924	13,150
United States of America	..	..	..	2,629,518	22,909
Venezuela	..	..	..	396,936	5,994
Bunkers	..	..	..	24,305,638	236,721
Destination Unknown (Admiralty)	..	..	..	6,492,052	58,639
Other Countries	..	..	..	7,048,722	85,945
Total	..	..	..	110,312,796	1,194,076

<i>Articles and Countries of final destination.</i>			<i>Total Imports.</i>	
			<i>Quantities.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
Kerosene :			<i>galls.</i>	<i>£</i>
Other British Possessions .. ..	..	..	605,541	27,782
Venezuela .. ..	..	..	11,992	604
Ships' Stores .. ..	..	..	3,129	137
Destination Unknown (Admiralty) ..	..	..	563,869	24,214
Other Countries .. ..	..	..	148,565	5,613
Total .. ..	..	..	1,333,096	58,350
Motor Spirit :			<i>galls.</i>	<i>£</i>
United Kingdom .. ..	..	..	5,737,718	171,781
Other British Possessions .. ..	..	..	..	..
American West Indies .. ..	..	..	1,136,830	35,750
Brazil .. ..	..	..	41,667	2,187
Dutch Guiana .. ..	..	..	43,644	1,930
French Guiana .. ..	..	..	3,283	172
French West Indies .. ..	..	..	270,960	15,238
United States of America .. ..	..	..	17,856,796	558,464
Venezuela .. ..	..	..	77,688	3,980
Ships' Stores .. ..	..	..	12,807	605
Destination Unknown (Admiralty) ..	..	..	545,742	24,085
Other Countries .. ..	..	..	2,733,349	138,512
Total .. ..	..	..	28,640,484	952,704
SPIRITS :			<i>galls.</i>	<i>£</i>
Rum :			<i>galls.</i>	<i>£</i>
United Kingdom .. ..	..	..	34,707	7,705
Canada .. ..	..	..	408	195
Other British Possessions .. ..	..	..	508	205
Ships' Stores .. ..	..	..	128	72
Other Countries .. ..	..	..	8	7
Total .. ..	..	..	35,759	8,184
Bitters :			<i>galls.</i>	<i>£</i>
United Kingdom .. ..	..	..	11,105	18,476
Canada .. ..	..	..	572	1,156
Other British Possessions .. ..	..	..	1,581	2,812
France .. ..	..	..	138	257
Germany .. ..	..	..	663	947
United States of America .. ..	..	..	36,753	47,843
Venezuela .. ..	..	..	239	439
Ships' Stores .. ..	..	..	65	123
Other Countries .. ..	..	..	4,076	7,557
Total .. ..	..	..	55,192	79,610
SUGAR :			<i>lb.</i>	<i>£</i>
Yellow Crystals :			<i>lb.</i>	<i>£</i>
United Kingdom .. ..	..	..	26,565,954	217,542
Canada .. ..	..	..	1,436,500	11,829
Other British Possessions .. ..	..	..	592,126	5,291
United States of America .. ..	..	..	100	2
Venezuela .. ..	..	..	109,702	1,178
Total .. ..	..	..	28,704,382	235,842

<i>Articles and Countries of final destination.</i>				<i>Total Exports.</i>	
				<i>Quantities.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
Grey Crystals :				lb.	£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	25,647,324	204,943
Canada	..	..	..	37,701,200	309,283
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	61,095	553
Venezuela	..	..	..	5,213	50
Other Countries	..	..	..	11,400	117
Total	..	..	..	63,426,232	514,946
Other Kinds :				lb.	£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	1,377,346	10,604
Canada	..	..	..	2,240	22
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	126,284	896
United States of America	..	..	..	400	5
Venezuela	..	..	..	12,262	113
Ships' Stores	..	..	..	280	2
Total	..	..	..	1,518,812	11,642
MOLASSES :				galls.	£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	501,660	6,880
Canada	..	..	..	13,540	263
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	2,760	24
United States of America	..	..	..	508,384	6,214
Other Countries	..	..	..	162,496	1,090
Total	..	..	..	1,188,840	14,471
TONCA BEANS :				lb.	£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	2,011	333
Other British Possessions	..	..	..	75	6
United States of America	..	..	..	70,097	11,335
Total	..	..	..	72,183	11,674

14. The progress of the trade of the Colony by countries, both import and export, is shewn hereunder :—

	1907.	1912.	1917.	1922.	1927.
IMPORTS.	<i>per cent.</i>	<i>per cent.</i>	<i>per cent.</i>	<i>per cent.</i>	<i>per cent.</i>
United Kingdom	.. 35.1	36.4	21.43	30.25	31.83
Canada	.. 5.5	7.3	17.72	21.17	19.44
Total British Empire	.. 50.0	51.6	49.42	59.07	58.68
United States	.. 25.8	31.6	37.63	27.64	27.74
Total Foreign Countries	50.0	48.4	50.58	40.93	41.32
EXPORTS.					
United Kingdom	.. 25.0	22.6	41.04	38.87	26.13
Canada	.. 10.2	9.2	5.77	11.00	7.00
Total British Empire	.. 38.0	33.5	49.98	55.74	43.95
United States	.. 34.8	9.5	31.07	25.03	28.73
Total Foreign Countries	.. 62.0	66.5	50.02	44.26	56.05

15. The following is a list of products in which there is considerable foreign competition (principal competitors are shewn in brackets) to British products:—

Butter and Butter Substitutes (France and Holland).
 Motor Cars, Lorries and Vans and parts thereof (U.S.A.).
 Chemicals (U.S.A.).
 Chinaware (Germany).
 Coal (U.S.A.).
 Confectionery (U.S.A.).
 Cordage and Twine (U.S.A.).
 Cotton Piece Goods and Hosiery (U.S.A.).
 Cutlery (Germany).
 Electrical Apparatus (U.S.A.).
 Films (U.S.A.).
 Glass and Glassware (Germany and Holland)
 Hardware (Germany and U.S.A.)
 Implements and Tools (U.S.A.)
 Machinery (U.S.A.)
 Meats (U.S.A. and South America)
 Medicines and Drugs (U.S.A.)
 Metal Manufactures (U.S.A.)
 Oil, edible (France)
 Oil, Lubricating (U.S.A.)
 Oilcloth (U.S.A.)
 Painters' Colours and Materials (U.S.A.)
 Paper, newspaper and wrapping (Holland, U.S.A. and Germany)
 Paper and manufactures of (U.S.A.)
 Stationery (U.S.A.)
 Wood and Timber, unmanufactured (U.S.A.)

16. As a result of the Canada-West Indies reciprocity agreements of 1912, 1920 and 1925, the Import Trade of the Colony has been largely diverted from foreign countries to the United Kingdom and Canada.

The United States continues to be the main competitor, supplying in 1927 £1,378,482 or 27·74 per cent. of the total imports. Of this, however, £582,580 represents the value of Oil Machinery, Casing, Tanks, &c., of which she appears to have the monopoly, the balance being made up of unmanufactured Tobacco, Wood and Timber, Salted Meats, Coal, Electrical Apparatus and Motor Vehicles. The trade in Motor Cars is, however, gradually being captured by the United Kingdom and Canada and that in Salted Meats by Canada.

TOTAL TRADE.

17. The total aggregate trade for the last five years, has been :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
1923	£4,837,828	£5,304,001	£10,141,829
1924	4,772,111	5,378,081	10,150,142
1925	5,151,379	5,926,698	11,078,072
1926	5,160,238	6,299,540	11,459,778
1927	5,790,023	6,726,016	12,516,039

The number of vessels entered and cleared during the five years 1923-27 at the several ports of entry are shewn hereunder:—

	1923.		1924.		1925.		1926.		1927.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British Steamers entered ..	414	1,215,828	480	1,295,124	482	1,362,930	495	1,416,659	484	1,423,464
Do. ..	410	1,202,790	480	1,277,215	478	1,354,999	499	1,418,987	479	1,409,114
British Sailing vessels entered ..	621	23,391	485	20,613	485	19,251	493	18,623	448	16,102
Do. cleared ..	603	22,281	479	20,797	484	19,132	499	19,001	446	16,060
Total British ..	2,048	2,464,290	1,924	2,613,749	1,929	2,756,012	1,986	2,873,270	1,857	2,864,740
Foreign Steamers entered ..	410	676,008	398	682,893	473	874,293	494	1,008,923	647	1,313,603
Do. ..	405	666,691	398	681,440	464	882,891	500	1,006,966	646	1,305,238
Foreign Sailing Vessels entered ..	809	48,690	650	30,535	644	25,764	501	22,690	549	24,141
Do. cleared ..	804	43,903	653	34,619	660	26,195	494	21,704	553	25,128
Total Foreign ..	2,428	1,435,292	2,099	1,429,487	2,241	1,809,143	1,989	2,060,283	2,395	2,668,110
Grand Total ..	4,476	3,899,582	4,023	4,043,236	4,170	4,565,155	3,975	4,933,553	4,252	5,532,850

It will be seen from the above that as compared with 1926, there was, during 1927, a decrease in British ships of 129 in number, and 8,530 in tonnage, while Foreign ships increased by 406 and 607,827 in number and tonnage respectively. The total net increase was 277 in number of ships and 599,297 in tonnage.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

SHIPPING.

1. The following steamship lines call regularly at Trinidad :—

Line.	From	To	Frequency of calls.
Harrison Line	... United Kingdom Ports	Central and South America	Passengers monthly. Cargo frequently.
Leyland Line	... Liverpool and Glasgow	Central American Ports	About every 10 days.
Royal Netherlands West India Mail	North European Ports	Do.	... Two lines each fortnightly.
Compagnie Generale Transatlantique	Channel Ports	Central America	Monthly.
Transatlantica Italiana	} Western Mediterranean Ports	Do.	... Do.
Navigazione Generale Italiana			
Horn Line	... Hamburg and Antwerp	Do.	... Fortnightly.
Canadian Government Merchant Marine	East Canadian Ports	West Indies and Demerara	Passengers monthly. Cargo frequently.
Elders and Fyffes	... Avonmouth	... Santa Marta and Jamaica	Fortnightly.
Trinidad Line	... New York	... Demerara	... About every 10 days.
Lamport and Holt	... River Plata and Brazil	New York	... Fortnightly.
Aluminium Line	... Paramaribo	North American Ports	Frequently for bunkers.
Orinoco Line	... Ciudad Bolivar	Ciudad Bolivar	Every 10 days.
Nourse Line	... India and West Indian Islands	...	Monthly.
Hamburg-Amerika Line	... North European Ports	Central America	Do.
Munson Line	... Brazil	... North America	Fortnightly.
Ocean Dominion Steamship Corporation	East Canadian Ports	Demerara	... Do.

Mails are regularly forwarded and received by these steamers. In addition an increasing number of steamers call to load oil cargoes or to take in coal or fuel oil for bunker purposes. During the winter months a number of tourist ships call.

There is a weekly Coastal Steamship Service between Trinidad and Tobago by the Steamer "Belize", going every alternate week by the northern and southern routes. This service was previously run by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, but is now run by the Government.

RAILWAYS.

2. The Trinidad Government Railway now consists (1) of the Port-of-Spain-Arima-Sangre Grande line running 29 miles along the southern foot of the northern range of hills to within eight miles of the eastern coast; (2) the San Fernando-Siparia line, 44 miles, leaving the Port-of-Spain-Arima-Sangre Grande line at St. Joseph ($6\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Port-of-Spain) and following roughly the western coast of the Colony, total distance Port-of-Spain to Siparia, 51 miles; (3) the Caparo Valley line, $28\frac{1}{2}$ miles, leaving the Port-of-Spain-San Fernando-Siparia line at Jerningham Junction ($14\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Port-of-Spain), and running in a generally south-eastern direction, total distance from Port-of-Spain 43 miles; (4) the Guaracara line, 10 miles, leaving the Port-of-Spain-San Fernando-Siparia line at Marabella Junction (33 miles from Port-of-Spain) and running in an easterly direction to Princes Town, total distance from Port-of-Spain, 43 miles, and (5) the Cipero Tramway, another route to and from Princes Town *via* Corinth, 38 miles from Port-of-Spain, length with branches, 13 miles. The line is double line between Port-of-Spain and St. Joseph Station ($6\frac{1}{2}$ miles), the remainder of the line is single line. The total length of the system is 123 miles, of which about 8 miles are leased to other interests. The Railway is of standard ($4'-8\frac{1}{2}"$) gauge.

The railway affords communication for passengers over all lines three times a day, and goods trains generally once a day, during the crop season January to July. During the out of crop season August to December goods trains are curtailed to one every other day on the Sangre Grande and Rio Claro lines, but run daily on the Siparia Line. A suburban service of trains is run between Port-of-Spain and Arima giving a service of 6 trains daily each way.

3. In connection with the railway, a steamer makes one trip a week between Port-of-Spain, San Fernando and La Brea (near the celebrated Pitch Lake), the Oilfields, Cedros, and to the south-western point of the Island at Icacos, stopping at eight intermediate places along the coast, and carrying passengers and goods. This steamer also makes three trips a week each way between Port-of-Spain and the Bocas entrance to the Gulf, including the Islands to the West of Port-of-Spain.

4. The railway stations are in telegraphic or telephonic communication one with the other on all parts of the system, giving a total length of 118 miles of telegraph and about 14 miles of telephone lines. There is also a service telephone along the Cipero Section between San Fernando and Princes Town.

ROADS.

5. The roads of the Colony are divided into main and local roads. The former and roughly 50 per cent. of the latter are under the control of the Director of Public Works. The other local roads are under Local Road Boards. The main roads with a total mileage of 1,073·71 miles are made up of 187·60 miles metal and oil, 428·57 miles metal, 258·67 miles gravel or burnt clay, 86·10 miles natural soil cart roads, and 112·77 miles bridle road—the local roads, in districts where there are no Local Road Boards, comprising 642·89 miles are made up of 8·95 miles metal and oil, 45·15 miles metal, 193·52 miles gravel or burnt clay and 201·72 miles natural soil cart road and 193·55 miles bridle road. In addition there are several miles of Crown Traces in charge of the Wardens who are provided with funds to maintain them merely as rights of way.

POSTAL.

6. There is a General Post Office at Port-of-Spain, with branch offices at San Fernando and Tobago and 116 out offices throughout the Colony.

The rates of postage are as follows, per 1 oz. letter : —

Within the Colony ... 1d.

To United Kingdom, British Possessions and United States	} 1½d. for first oz. 1d. each additional oz. or fraction of oz.
--	--

To other places for 1st oz. 3d. and for each additional oz. 1½d.

Trinidad is a party to the Geneva Postal Convention.

The usual Money Order, Postal Order and C.O.D. systems are in force in the Colony.

CABLE.

7. Communication by cable with the United Kingdom, Europe, North America and other parts of the world is maintained by the Pacific Cable Board and the West India and Panama Telegraph Company.

The Pacific Cable Board established their service in the West Indies during the year 1924, and opened their offices for business on the 1st December of the same year.

Their cables run from Barbados to Turks Island, with spurs from the former place to Trinidad and Demerara. At Turks Island connection is made with the Direct Company's Cables to Halifax, traffic is handed back to the Pacific Cable Board's Office at Halifax and thence *via* Imperial Cables, an all-British line of communication thus being established to England.

The system was established and is owned jointly by the Imperial Government, the Government of Canada and the Governments of the various West Indian Colonies. Apart from the main cables wireless stations are maintained at all the smaller Colonies, communicating with a central station at Barbados where traffic is transferred to the cables.

A wireless system of communication is also maintained between the following Islands :—Barbados, St. Vincent, Grenada, Carriacou, St. Lucia, Dominica, Antigua, Montserrat and St. Kitts.

8. The West India and Panama Telegraph Company, which until the establishment of the Government owned Pacific Cable Board system was under contract with the Government, has a duplicate cable system. Both cables on leaving Trinidad touch at Grenada where they separate until they meet again at St. Lucia, Porto Rico, Jamaica and terminate at Santiago, Cuba, where the Company hand over their traffic to the Cuba Submarine Company who in turn at Havana hand over to the Western Union Telegraph Company which has a duplicate cable system to New York

The Company's cables connect with the French Cable Company's line at Guadeloupe and Porto Rico, which proceeds to New York *via* Hayti. In addition their lines connect with the Direct West Indian Cable Company's (called the all-British route) Line at Jamaica, which proceeds from there to Bermuda, Halifax and the United Kingdom.

WIRELESS.

9. The Pacific Cable Board System has no wireless station in Trinidad, but three wireless stations are maintained by the Trinidad Government, namely, stations at Port-of-Spain, North Post, and Tobago. The North Post Station deals exclusively with Ship, Tobago and Martinique traffic, while communication with British Guiana, St. Martin, Venezuela and Paramaribo is carried out by Port-of-Spain.

TELEPHONES.

10. A telephone service throughout the Island is maintained by the Trinidad Consolidated Telephones, Ltd., a private Company, whose headquarters are in Port-of-Spain. The service is an up-to-date one and meets the requirements of the community both for business and private purposes

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

JUSTICE.

1. Subject to the terms of any local ordinance, the common law, doctrines of equity and statutes of general application of the Imperial Parliament, which were in force in England on the 1st day of March, 1848, are deemed to be in force in the Colony.

2. A petty civil court is established in each magisterial district of the Colony. Each court is presided over by a magistrate who is *ex officio* judge of the court. The jurisdiction is limited to claims not exceeding twenty-five pounds.

An appeal lies from a petty court to the Supreme Court from any judgment or order in any action where the sum claimed is over £10.

3. When dealing with criminal cases triable summarily a Magistrate or Justice of the Peace exercises jurisdiction under the summary conviction ordinances, and, subject to these ordinances, has also the powers, privileges, rights and jurisdiction conferred on Justices of the Peace by the common law of England. Appeals from the decision of Magistrates lie to the Supreme Court.

4. The Supreme Court of Trinidad and Tobago was created under the Judicature Ordinance 1879. It is the Supreme Court of Record, and consists of a Chief Justice and two Puisne Judges. The jurisdiction is the same as that of a High Court of Justice in England, except that there is no jurisdiction in divorce causes.

Appeals lie from the Supreme Court to:—

- (a) The Full Court.
- (b) The West Indian Court of Appeal.
- (c) The Privy Council.

5. The Full Court is constituted by two or three of the judges. It has jurisdiction with respect to:—magisterial appeals; petty civil court appeals; appeals from interlocutory orders; appeals in cases where the value of the subject matter does not exceed £200; applications for security for costs of appeal in the West Indian Court of Appeal; applications for a stay of execution pending such appeal; appeals from the Official Receiver in bankruptcy; applications for prohibition; appeals in proceedings analogous to those on the Crown and revenue side of the King's Bench Division; cases of Habeas corpus; appeals from a judge in Chambers; and applications for a new trial in jury cases.

6. The West Indian Court of Appeal was established in the year 1920, for the colonies of Trinidad and Tobago, British Guiana, Barbados, Leeward Islands, Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and its members are the Chief Justices of those colonies. It is constituted of an uneven number of judges not less than three in number; the opinion of the majority determines any question before the Court.

A judge of the Court cannot sit as a judge on the hearing of an appeal from any judgment or order made by himself. The Court has jurisdiction to determine appeals (including reserved questions of law) from the Supreme Court, except cases in which the jurisdiction of the local Full Court has been expressly reserved.

In the hearing of an appeal from Trinidad, the law to be applied is the local law. Appeal lies from the Court to the Privy Council.

POLICE.

1. There are 56 Stations in the Colony. 53 in Trinidad and 3 in Tobago, the majority of which are in telephonic communication.

2. Applicants for enlistment in the Force must be over 18 years of age and under 35 years, 5 feet 8 inches in height, be able to read and write, and must produce two certificates of character from well-known members of the community.

They are required to submit to medical examination by the Constabulary Surgeon and are enlisted only if found physically fit.

Enlistment is for three years, the first six months of which is spent at the Training Depot on probation after which enlistment is automatically renewed year by year.

Members of the Force are retired at 55 and may retire at the age of 50 if they have completed 20 years of service.

Recruits are posted to the Depot on enlistment and spend 6 months there.

They are trained in Constabulary and Military duties, Fire Brigade drill and first aid. Unless they qualify in all these duties before the 6 months their service may be dispensed with.

PHOTOGRAPHIC BRANCH.

3. Criminals convicted and sentenced to imprisonment (except in cases of minor offences) are photographed before discharge and a careful record is kept of them. The negatives are filed and indexed so that in case of necessity the photograph of any particular criminal can be broadcast to all parts of the Colony or outside of it at a short notice.

FINGER PRINT BRANCH.

4. This branch was established 24 years ago and 730 finger prints were taken during 1927, bringing the total on record to 20,935.

324 persons were traced or identified by this means during the year.

SUPERVISION OF ALIENS AND UNDESIRABLE IMMIGRANTS.

5. The Detective Inspector keeps a careful record of such persons, and their movements are diligently watched.

MOTOR TRAFFIC.

6. All members of the Force are trained in Road Regulations and signals, and men before being put on traffic duty receive special instructions in addition.

Applicants for drivers' licences are examined by examiners appointed by the Trinidad Automobile Association, and are then subjected to a further examination by the Constabulary as to their knowledge of Motor Car and Road Regulations before the licences are granted.

They must also be physically fit, and must produce certificates of good character.

PRISONS.

1. The prisons of the Colony consist of :—The Royal Gaol in Port-of-Spain, which is the main prison ; the convict prison at Carrera Island ; the Preventive Detention Prison ; the juvenile prison and the convict depôt in Tobago.

2. There was a decrease of 512 in the total number of admissions of convicted prisoners during the year 1927.

The figures are as follows :—

		<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1926	...	1,800	237	2,037
1927	...	1,313	212	1,525

Prisoners are in all prisons employed upon work of public utility and remunerative industrial labour. Various trades are taught, such as Carpentry, Blacksmith, Tinsmith, Tailoring, Shoemaking, the making of Furniture, Matting, Mats, Charcoal and White Lime, Rope, Twine, Bamboo-blinds, Laundry and Mason work.

3 *At the Royal Gaol.* The principal labour performed is : stone-breaking, coconut fibre picking, making prisoners clothing, mattress making, carpentry and various trades. Gangs are sent from the Prison to the Governor's Residence, the Prison Gardens and the Experimental Station, Botanical Department.

4 *At Carrera Convict Prison.* Quarrying stone, cutting and droghing wood and sand, stone cutting, coconut fibre mat and matting making : 8,760 cubic yards of metal were delivered for the use of the Public Works Department, in 1927. The convicts were also employed in various trades in the interest of the Prison.

5 *Scarborough (Tobago) Convict Depot.* The convicts of this prison are employed in wood cutting, on sanitary work in the town, at the Government Farm and Botanic Gardens and at Government House.

6. *Preventive Detention Prison.* The prisoners are employed in wood cutting, droghing sand and stones, cultivation of Prison Gardens, erection of buildings of the Prison and on other work in the interest of the Prison. The prisoners are taught the following trades:—Tailoring, Shoemaking, Carpentry and Tinsmith. This is an Institution started in 1924 for the detention of habitual criminals who received a fixed sentence of hard labour in the ordinary prisons, followed by a sentence of preventive detention during the Governor's pleasure. They are subject to the same treatment, as far as is possible, as that received at Camp Hill Prisons in the Isle of Wight. The sentence is indeterminate, but if the Governor does not see fit to discharge a prisoner at the end of 10 years, a report has to be sent to the Secretary of State. The number admitted during the year was 9 as compared with 10 in 1926.

7. *Young Offenders Detention Institution.* This Institution which was started in January, 1927, is intended for young offenders between the ages of 16 and 21 years. The Supreme Court has power to impose a sentence of not less than 1 year nor more than 5 years, and the Summary Court not less than 1 year nor more than 3 years. Boys under 16 are sent to the Diego Martin Industrial School. There must be a previous conviction on a previous order of detention in an Industrial School. Sentences imposed by a Summary Court must have the approval of the Governor before being enforced.

The treatment is similar, as far as is possible, to that of Borstal Institutions. The inmates are taught trades - Carpentry, Cabinet making, Tailoring, Shoemaking and the culture of flower and kitchen gardens. All inmates attend School and Religious instruction is given regularly by the Chaplains appointed. All Prison Uniforms are made at this Institution as well as for the Post Office, and Office Messengers. Private work is also undertaken.

The number committed during the year was 45.

8. There is also a Juvenile Prison on the same premises intended for young offenders up to the age of 21 who have been committed a first time, and who do not come under the Detention of Young Offenders Ordinance. They are located apart from the others, and apart from the privilege of discharge on license, divisions into classes, and Diets, the treatment is much the same. The committals to this prison was 122 during the year.

9. *Female Prison.* The prisoners are employed chiefly in laundry work, coconut fibre picking and weeding at the prison gardens. Washing is done for the Prisons, Officers Constabulary, Hospital and Military Departments.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Apart from the maintenance of public roads and buildings no works of any particular magnitude or engineering interest were executed during 1927. A start has been made on the erection of the new House of Refuge on lands to the West of Port-of-Spain, and a satisfactory rate of progress with the work is being maintained.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

1. The estimated population of the two Islands Trinidad and Tobago, at 31st December, 1927, was 391,705 an increase of 4,235 on 1926. The white population is chiefly composed of English, French, Spanish and Portuguese. The large majority of the inhabitants are natives of the West Indies of African descent, the balance being made up of East Indians, estimated at 127,326 and a small number of Chinese. The East Indians shew an increase of 1,151.

2. The Birth-rate was 30·41 per 1,000 and the Death-rate 18·71 per 1,000. There was an appreciable fall in the Death-rate as compared with that of 1926.

3. The number of deaths of children under 1 year was 1,430 and the infantile mortality rate was 120·6 per 1,000 Births.

The Death-rates from the principal diseases were as follows:—

Diarrhœa and Enteritis	...	...	...	1·08	per 1,000.
Malaria	...	...	...	1·69	do.
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	1·26	do.
Dysentery	...	...	...	0·47	do.
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	0·22	do.
Ankylostomiasis	...	...	...	0·55	do.

Measures for the reduction of Infantile Mortality have been maintained. The Mothers' and Infants' Clinic in Port-of-Spain continues to be well attended, and branches of the Child Welfare League are established in seven country districts.

A Special Clinic for sick children was opened this year at the Colonial Hospital.

4. The general condition of health was good. The Birth-rate continues high. The Death-rate and Infantile Mortality rate are materially lower than last year and in each case are lower than in any previous year.

Apart from the two principal towns of Port-of-Spain and San Fernando the Sanitary Department maintains work in every part of the Colony the whole of which is divided into Sanitary Districts. Each district has a Local Sanitary Authority, a Medical Officer of Health and one or more Sanitary Inspectors.

Scavenging has been extended over the Colony until every town and every village of any size has an organised system.

5. Enteric fever which has been prevalent in many parts of the country in the last few years has now been much reduced, the notification of cases of this disease for the year 1927 being more than 60 per cent. less than in 1926.

6. Venereal Clinics on modern lines continue to be well attended at the Out-patients' Departments of the Colonial Hospitals, Port-of-Spain and San Fernando.

7. The intensive treatment of Hook-worm disease carried on by the Rockefeller International Board of Health, since 1914 ceased at the end of 1924. Similar work along the same lines is now maintained by a staff under the Central Board of Health.

8. The following hospital accommodation is provided:—

Colonial Hospital, Port-of-Spain	... 340 beds
The San Fernando Hospital	... 123 do.
The Government District Hospitals in Tobago, and at Arima, St. Joseph, Tacarigua, Couva, Princes Town and Cedros	... 248 do.

There are also small temporary hospitals at Sangre Grande, Mayaro and Toco.

9. The Lunatic Asylum at St. Ann's, near Port-of-Spain, has accommodation for 700 and is conducted on modern lines.

10. The Leper Settlement which was completed in 1926 is on Chacachacare Island 20 miles to the West of Port-of-Spain, has accommodation for 450 inmates.

IX.—EDUCATION.

1. At the close of the year under review there were 288 Elementary and Intermediate Schools in the Colony, 47 being Government and 241 Assisted Schools. There were 252 schools in Trinidad and 36 in Tobago. Of the 241 Assisted Schools, 94 were Roman Catholic, 55 Church of England, 68 Canadian Presbyterian Mission, 12 Wesleyan, 11 Moravian and 1 Baptists. There were 2 Government and 3 Assisted Intermediate Schools.

The number of pupils on the roll in December, 1927, was 61,699 of whom 34,328 were boys and 27,361 girls. The average daily attendance was 38,364, or 62.2 per cent. of the number on the roll. There was an increase of 2,286 or 3.8 per cent. on the roll, and of 1,586 or 4.3 per cent. in average attendance.

The number of teachers and pupil teachers employed was 1,641, as against 1,648 in 1926.

2. The total expenditure on education during the year 1927 deducting the amount received in school and examination fees was £127,562 16s. 9d. as compared with £122,063 13s. 9d. in 1926. 186 candidates took the competitive examination for College Exhibitions and 68 the examination for Handicraft Exhibitions awarded by the Board of Education. 8 College and 3 Handicraft Exhibitioners were nominated, bringing up to

54 the total number of exhibitors being educated in Secondary Schools. In December, 1927, there were 23 Teaching Bursars at the Queen's Royal College and affiliated Schools, and 22 students at the Government Training College. There were 332 candidates at the examination for Teachers' Certificates, of whom 66 passed their prescribed examinations.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

3. The following Colleges afford facilities for the higher education of boys:—The Queen's Royal College and its affiliated institutions, the St. Mary's College in Port-of-Spain, the Naparima College in San Fernando, and the Bishop's High School in Tobago. The St. Joseph's Convent and the Bishop's High School in Port-of-Spain and the Naparima Girls' High School in San Fernando, which are also affiliated to the Queen's Royal College, provide similar education for girls. The number of pupils on roll at 31st December was:—

Queen's Royal College	...	...	247
St. Mary's College	...	...	386
Naparima College	...	...	120
St. Joseph Convent School	...	...	406
Bishop's High School for Girls	...	...	115
Naparima Girls' High School	...	...	68
Bishop's High School, Tobago	...	...	48
Total	...	...	<u>1,390</u>

The affiliated institutions work under the same curriculum as the Queen's Royal College, and receive a Government grant-in-aid.

The Queen's Royal College and its affiliated Colleges are examined annually in July. The Middle Forms are examined by the Cambridge University Examinations Syndicate. The Upper Sixth Form is examined by the Oxford and Cambridge Schools Examination Board, being entered for the Higher Certificate Examination while the pupils of the Lower Sixth and Fifth Forms are entered for the Cambridge Local Examinations, taking the School Certificate and the Junior Examinations respectively.

4. Four hundred and twenty-three pupils of the Middle Forms of the Queen's Royal College and affiliated Schools sat for the examination conducted by the Cambridge University Examinations Syndicate in July, 1927. Three hundred and thirty-seven pupils sat for the School Certificate and Junior Local Examinations, while thirty-four candidates sat for the Higher Certificate Examinations of the Oxford and Cambridge Joint Board. Two hundred and fifteen candidates passed the School Certificate and Junior Local Examinations, fifty gaining Honours, while fifty-seven distinctions in various subjects were gained. Twenty-eight Higher Certificates were gained. Two Scholarships,

not exceeding £800 each in value, tenable at a University in the British Empire, or other Scientific or Technical Institutions to be approved by the Education Board, were awarded on the result of the Higher Certificate Examination. One of these Scholarships was awarded on the subjects of Group IV (Science). Four "House Scholarships" of the annual value of £15 each were awarded on the results of the Cambridge Junior Local Examination.

5. Under the present scheme for the training of teachers, there were 23 Bursars attending the Secondary Schools and 25 student teachers undergoing a course of Normal Training after leaving the Secondary Schools.

All teachers for Government and Assisted Schools except the Roman Catholic are now trained under Government auspices, the Naparima Training College being recognised as a branch of the Government Training College.

The Board of Education have now recommended the discontinuance of the Teaching Bursar scheme and the question of Teacher Training has been under discussion with a view to the inauguration of a different system, to be started in 1928.

INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION.

6. The Technical Classes of the Board of Industrial Training showed another year of continued growth during 1927, when the weekly average attendance of students rose to 356 with a total number of 13,980 hours as against an average of 300 attendances and a total of 11,716 hours in 1926. There were 300 students in attendance distributed among the following classes :—

Workshop Arithmetic	...	...	127
Workshop Drawing	...	...	98
Workshop Practice	...	...	83
Mechanics	...	...	72
Mathematics	...	...	70
Typography	...	...	42
Building Construction	...	...	53
Bookbinding	...	...	31
Tailoring	...	...	32
English (for Printers)	...	..	78

Thirty-four candidates sat for the Intermediate Examination for Apprentices, for which the questions are specially set by the City and Guilds of London Institute. The results were :—

		<i>Entered.</i>	<i>Passed.</i>	<i>Failed</i>
Mechanical Engineering	...	13	9	4
Typography	...	4	1	3
Bookbinding	...	2	2	0
Building Construction	...	8	4	4
Carpentry and Joinery	...	7	1	6

Forty-two students were presented for the Technological Examinations of the City and Guilds of London Institute, of whom sixteen satisfied the Examiners. In the subjects of Bookbinding and Typography, the students were sufficiently advanced to enable the final examinations to be taken. For the first time in the history of the classes in Trinidad, two students were awarded Bronze Medals by the City and Guilds of London Institute, one in Bookbinding and one in Typography. The following is a summary of the passes :—

Bookbinding	Grade I.	...	4 Passed (2 First Class and 2 Second Class).
Carpentry and Joinery	Grade II.	...	1 Passed (Second Class).
Mechanical Engineering	Grade I.	...	2 Passed.
Typography	Grade I.	...	2 Passed.
Do.	Grade II.	...	6 Passed (5 First Class and 1 Second Class).
Do.	Final	...	1 Passed (Second Class).

7. The Board is also entrusted with the administration of an institution for the blind towards which a grant of £300 was made by the Government, and voluntary public subscriptions to the amount of £523 5s. 3d. were collected during the year. The Government also grants £150 for special work in the education and maintenance of destitute blind children. Instruction at the Institute is given in Braille Reading, Writing Arithmetic, History and Geography, Music and Typewriting, while men are taught Basket-making, Chair-caning and Mat-making and women Knitting, Sewing and Raffia Work. This institution deals with some forty or fifty blind people and is a residential one for the education, maintenance and training of blind children and a day institution for the purposes of an adult school and affording a mid-day meal and a small wage for work done by the blind of Port-of-Spain and its environs. With regard to residential accommodation the Board has found it necessary, in the interests of discipline, to limit the age qualification for residence to 18 years. It is at present the only institution for the blind in the British West Indies and receives blind children from the other West Indian Islands for education and training when the Colonies can contribute to their maintenance.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

1. The lands of the Colony can be divided into two classes, viz.: those which are vested in the Crown and those which have already been alienated. Crown land is alienated by Royal Grant under the hand of the Governor and Seal of the Colony. The alienation of Crown lands can be again sub-divided into those sold under freehold title, for agricultural purposes, and those held from the Crown on leasehold for 99 or 999 years for building purposes in residential areas, such as Port-of-Spain, St. Augustine and the new village of La Brea. Lands for agricultural purposes situate in the Counties of St. George, St. David, St. Andrew, Caroni and Tobago are sold on petition to the

Governor as Intendant of Crown lands at the following rates: £2 10s. 0d. per acre in parcels not exceeding 20 acres: at £3 15s. 0d. per acre in parcels exceeding 20 acres, but not exceeding 100 acres: and in parcels exceeding 100 acres at not less than £5 per acre except in special instances and by permission of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. Lands situate in the Counties of Victoria, St. Patrick, Nariva and Mayaro are sold on petition in parcels of not less than 5 acres and upwards at £4 per acre. These prices include the cost of Survey, Registration and Grant. No purchaser of agricultural land can be permitted to buy more than one parcel of land at a time nor can he submit a further petition for additional land, until at least half the land already purchased is brought under cultivation, except with the permission of the Intendant. Five hundred and sixty-one Grants and Leases of an acreage of 1,608 of a total value of £11,461 were issued during the year. The Land Regulations of the 24th December, 1917, and the Order made by His Excellency the Intendant, which was published on the 29th November, 1923, prescribed the mode of application, conditions of sale, and price of Crown lands. The area of Crown land remaining unsold on the 31st December, 1927, was :—

Trinidad :

Forest Reserves	...	219,154 acres.
Unalienated lands	...	339,460 do.

Tobago :

Forest Reserves	...	9,776 do.
Unalienated lands	...	5,852 do.

574,242 acres,

a great deal of which is under License to Oil Companies.

2. Land alienated from the Crown prior to 1902 is held under a Grant, extant or presumed, from either the Spanish or the British Crown according to the date of its alienation. In these older Grants the reservation vary considerably, and in the oldest British Grants the terms are conditional. The Grants issued since 1869 contain the following reservation :—

The right to resume for works of public utility and convenience 1/20 part of the land granted, except any land on which buildings have been erected, or which may be in use as gardens or otherwise for the more convenient occupation of such buildings.

From 1869 to 1889: All precious metals and coal were reserved to the Crown.

From 1889 to January, 1902: All precious metals or coals, together with Asphalt in certain areas, were reserved.

From January, 1902, to 1910: All precious metals, coal, oil and other minerals (except Asphalt) were reserved.

From 1910: All precious metals, coal, oil and other minerals are reserved.

A Crown Grant issued since January, 1902, is registered free of charge to the Grantee under the provisions of the Real Property Ordinance, a statute which embodies the principles of the Torrens system of Land registration, and the Grant becomes the Certificate of Title guaranteed by the Crown.

3. The mineral rights of the Crown can be leased or licensed as follows: Under Exploration and Prospecting Licenses or Mining Lease. An Exploration License is granted at the discretion of the Governor and grants the holder the right to explore or examine the surface of any lands on which the Crown has oil and mineral rights. The license is usually for one or two years and can be an exclusive one: it is issued for the purpose of enabling the licensee to select an area over which to apply for a Prospecting License.

4. The fees payable for an Exploration License vary from £50 for an area under 250 acres to £1,250 for an area of 50,000 to 100,000 acres. The fees for a Prospecting License are double those for an Exploration License. A royalty is charged on oil won.

The holder of a Prospecting License is entitled to enter upon the land named in the license for such period as the Governor may deem desirable, which period shall not exceed two years with exclusive power to search in any part of it for the product or products named, to set up works, sink wells and export the produce subject, however, to the payment of such rates and duties as may be imposed by law upon such produce. If necessary, and provided the Governor considers the licensee has carried out the terms of his contract, the license may be extended for a period not exceeding a further two years. At the end or sooner determination of the period of the Prospecting License a Mining Lease may be granted over so much of the land held under License as the Governor may consider necessary for the purpose of erection of works, buildings, &c., for the continuation of the operations, at an annual rent to be agreed upon, and the licensee also has the privilege of leasing the crude oil or minerals underlying or upon such portion of the lands which has been held under the license as the licensee may select for a term of 21 years; this period may be extended, subject to such payment by way of rent or royalty as the Governor may approve. The lands held under Mining Lease must be first surveyed and all expenses of surveys and fees for Stamp Duty and registration must be paid by the applicant together with a fee of £5 for expenses in connection with the lease.

5. The number of applications received for licenses to prospect for oil during 1927 was 16. Four mining leases, two exploration licenses and one prospecting license were issued during the year.

SURVEY.

6. Prior to the year 1904 the only large scale maps of the Colony in existence were large unwieldy sheets of various sizes plotted to the scale of 12 chains to an inch (1 in 9,504). Each sheet covered a division of the Island known as a Ward, and was constructed by the continuous plotting of new surveys on to former surveys without any further control.

7 In 1901 a trigonometrical survey of Trinidad was commenced. On the completion of the primary and secondary triangulation, traverse surveys connected to the trigonometrical framework were run along the existing roads and railways—the entire coast line was also surveyed. These surveys were plotted to the scale of 12 chains to an inch on a system of sheets projected on a polyconic projection covering the whole Island. The dimensions of each sheet were 5 minutes of longitude by 3 minutes of latitude. These sheets were eventually reduced to the scale of 1 in 50,000 and printed, and a general map of the Island on the scale of 1 in 150,000 was also reproduced.

In 1911 this work was discontinued—in the meantime the old Ward Maps had been cut into sections to conform with the above Trig. Sheets.

Improved sectional maps of similar scale and dimensions, showing the cadastral detail contained on the old Ward Maps controlled by the surveys plotted on the Trig. Sheets, were then prepared, and these are the ones now in use.

8. Owing to the development of the Oil Industry, the necessity for a large scale Cadastral Map of Trinidad has arisen, and on the advice of the Colonial Survey Committee, a new scheme of scales, sheet dimensions, and numbering, has been evolved. The new maps will be based on rectangular co-ordinates.

NEW MAPPING SCHEME.

Scale.	Sheet Reference Letter or No.	AREA COVERED.		Size of Sheet Inches.
		CHAINS.	MILES.	
1/50,000	A to H	1,800 x 1,500	22½ x 18½	28·512 x 23·760
1/10,000	1 to 25	360 x 300	4½ x 3½	Do.
1/2,500	A to P	90 x 75	1½ x 1½	Do.

By the end of 1927 the following work had been done towards the preparation of the new Cadastral Map:—

The fixing of 72 new minor trigonometrical stations for the control of the traverse surveys.

36 primary traverses—average error of closure 1 in 6,230

45 secondary ,, ,, ,, 1 in 3,725

46 tertiary ,, ,, ,, 1 in 1,797

The average lengths of the primary, secondary, and tertiary traverses are 2 miles, $1\frac{1}{2}$, and $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles respectively.

16 sheets on the scale of 1 in 2,500 were completed and published.

20 sheets on the scale of 1 in 2,500 were in various stages of preparation.

In addition to the acreages and boundaries of properties, these sheets contain the names of the original grantees and of the present owners of parcels held under the provisions of the Real Property Ordinance, as well as the references to the Real Property Register and to the Registered Deeds.

Five sheets on the scale of 1 in 50,000 were compiled by entering the cadastral detail reduced by photography from the existing sectional maps, scale 1 in 9,504, on to the first pull of the Topographical Sheets (*see* "Topographical Maps"). Three of these sheets were printed and two ready for reproduction.

TOPOGRAPHICAL.

9. From September 1920 to June 1925, a Party of Royal Engineers was engaged on the surveys necessary for the preparation of a Topographical Map of Trinidad and Tobago, on the scale of 1 in 50,000.

The work in Trinidad was based on the existing triangulation and other controlled surveys previously executed by the Trigonometrical Survey Party.

The survey of Tobago necessitated the establishment of a triangulation net over the Island, of sufficient accuracy for the control of cadastral detail.

The map, which has been drawn and reproduced at the Ordnance Survey, Southampton, is layered in colours, and comprises 9 sheets on the scale of 1 in 50,000 prepared in conformity with the new map system. (8 sheets cover Trinidad and 1 sheet Tobago.)

A copy of this map is now being prepared on the scale of 1 in 150,000.

OTHER SURVEYS AND MAPS.

10. The majority of the surveys executed by the Survey Department each year consists of:—

- (a) "Surveys of Crown Lands petitioned for";
- (b) "The execution and supervision of concession surveys";
- (c) "Surveys of reserves, and of lands resumed for road purposes, and the redefining of old boundaries."

Contract Surveyors are employed when necessary to assist the Staff with these surveys.

During 1927, 12,727 chains of boundary lines were defined on the ground in connection with the surveys of parcels of Crown Lands petitioned for, the majority of which contained under 5 acres.

The length of lines run in connection with the surveys described at (b) and (c) above amounted to 1,039 chains and 2,469 chains respectively.

Various maps showing oil interests were prepared for the use of the Government.

2,596 plans were prepared and certified in connection with the petitions and other land transactions effected under the Real Property Ordinance.

XI LABOUR.

1. Labour in this Colony may be divided into two classes, viz.: (a) Agricultural (b) Industrial or skilled labour.

2. Agricultural labourers find employment on the Sugar, Cocoa and Coconut plantations, and form the greater bulk of the labouring classes of the Colony, who are composed of East Indians, West Indians and people of mixed Spanish and Carib blood.

3. The abolition of slavery in 1834 led to the introduction of indentured East Indian Inmigrants who first arrived in the Colony in 1845. This system was abolished in 1917 from which date approximately 4,000 East Indians have been repatriated under the terms of their contracts.

4. Planters are, however, now complaining that the present supply of labour is neither adequate nor of sufficient regularity to meet their requirements. This shortage is caused by the yearly return to India of former labourers and by the absorption of a great number of the descendants of labourers into other occupations opened up by the increasing development of the Colony and the greater educational facilities afforded to the humbler classes to improve their positions. Another factor

which has led to the shortage of agricultural labour is the remarkable progress of the Oil Industry which is attracting a large number of men formerly employed on the plantations. It is also apparent that with the further development of the Petroleum Industry the difficulty of securing an adequate supply of labour for agriculture will be increased.

5. In spite of the large amount of skilled labour employed by the Oil Companies there is little or no difficulty in obtaining a sufficient supply for other trades, such as building, &c.

6. The wages paid for labour in this Colony are as follows :—

Agricultural labourers	...	...	30 to	60 cents a day.
Oilfield labourers	...	...	72 to	80 do.
Artisans	...	...	...\$1.00 to	\$2.40 a day.

XII. MISCELLANEOUS.

1. Twenty-one Ordinances were passed during 1927, of which the following are of interest :—

No. 4. The Employment of Children Ordinance prohibits the employment of children under twelve years of age in labour exercised by way of trade or for purposes of gain.

No. 8. The Legitimacy Ordinance provides for the legitimation of children born out of wedlock. The Ordinance closely follows the Legitimacy Act 1926, (16 & 17 Geo. 5, Cap. 60).

No. 11. The Judicature Ordinance confers on the Supreme Court jurisdiction in matrimonial causes similar to that existing in England, except as to dissolution of marriage.

BANKS.

2. The Commercial Banks are (1) Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas), paid up capital £4,975,500 with a note circulation in the Colony, estimated at £250,000 ; (2) the Royal Bank of Canada, paid up capital \$30,000,000 with an authorized note circulation in the Colony of \$1,500,000 ; (3) the Canadian Bank of Commerce, paid up capital \$20,000,000 with an authorized note circulation of \$750,000 ; (4) Messrs. Gordon, Grant & Company, Limited, paid up capital of £500,000. Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas), the Royal Bank of Canada and the Canadian Bank of Commerce have savings bank branches and pay the same rate of interest as is paid by the Government

Savings Bank, viz. : 3 per cent. The bank of Gordon, Grant & Company is not a bank of issue. In addition to the above banks there is the Trinidad Co-operative Bank with a capital of £30,000, an institution established in 1914 for the encouragement of thrift.

3. Government Savings Banks are established in 34 Districts with a head office in Port-of-Spain. At the 31st December, 1913, the amount standing to the credit of depositors totalled £275,939 which by the end of 1918 had gradually decreased to £219,037, rising abnormally to £535,280 in 1920. The total number of depositors at 31st December, 1927, was 31,677 with deposits amounting to £418,140 as against 28,353 depositors with deposits totalling £366,966 recorded at the end of 1926.

There is no limit to deposits, upon which interest at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum is paid. Prior to the year 1926, the maximum amount of a depositor's account upon which interest was payable was limited to £500.

4. Maps of Trinidad and Tobago are attached.

H. B. WALCOTT,
Acting Colonial Secretary-

Trinidad,
18th August, 1928.



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"The Report of the Imperial Agricultural Research Conference," just issued, contains a full account of the events leading up to the Conference, the recommendations (both in full and in summary form) there made and the views expressed by the highest authorities on agriculture in all quarters of the Empire. The recommendations deal with the following subjects:— The establishment of an Imperial chain of Agricultural Research Stations. The establishment of Imperial clearing houses of information. The recruitment, training and interchange of scientific workers in agriculture for the whole Empire. The action immediately necessary to secure co-operative work in such specialist subjects as Veterinary Science, Animal Nutrition and Genetics, Dairying, Soils and Fertilisers, Plant Breeding and Pathology, Fruit Growing, Entomology, Preservation and Transport, and Agricultural Economics.

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REPORT FOR 1927.

*(For Reports for 1925 and 1926 see Nos. 1327 and 1376
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JAMAICA

Annual Report for the Year ended 31st December, 1927.

GEOGRAPHICAL.

1. Jamaica is an island in the Caribbean Sea, to the southward of the eastern extremity of Cuba, situated between $17^{\circ} 43'$ and $18^{\circ} 32'$ N. latitude and $76^{\circ} 11'$ and $78^{\circ} 20' 50''$ W. Longitude. It is the largest island of the British West Indies, its extreme length being 144 miles, greatest width 49 miles, and least width (from Kingston to Annotto Bay) $21\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

2. The Island is divided into three counties and fourteen parishes, viz.:—

<i>Surrey.</i>		<i>Middlesex.</i>		<i>Cornwall.</i>	
Sq. Miles.		Sq. Miles.		Sq. Miles.	
Kingston ..	$7\frac{3}{4}$	St. Catherine	498	St. Elizabeth	$473\frac{1}{2}$
St. Andrew ..	183	St. Mary	251	Trelawny	353
St. Thomas ..	$298\frac{1}{2}$	Clarendon	487	St. James	$239\frac{1}{2}$
Portland ..	338	St. Ann	487	Hanover	177
		Manchester	337	Westmoreland	320
Total	<u>$827\frac{1}{4}$</u>		<u>2,060</u>		<u>1,563</u>

comprising a total area of $4,540\frac{1}{4}$ square miles, or 2,848,160 acres, of which approximately 646 square miles, or 413,440 acres, are flat and consist of alluvium, marl and swamps. For purposes of comparison it may be observed that Jamaica exceeds in area the above-named English Counties by about the extent of Norfolk. The population was ascertained by census in 1921 to be 858,118; or 189 per square mile. The Island is therefore more populous in proportion to its size than, for instance, France which has only 187 persons to the square mile. The Colony and its Dependencies (consisting of the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Cayman Islands, the Morant Cays and the Pedro Cays) comprise a little more than a third of the area and contain nearly half the population of the British West Indies.

3. A great diversity of climate is obtainable, the temperature varying according to the season from 80° to 86° on the seacoast to as low as 40° at the tops of the highest mountains. The dryness of the atmosphere renders the climate of the Jamaica uplands particularly delightful and suited to the most delicate constitutions. Through the county of Surrey, and partly through Middlesex, runs a central mountain chain trending generally in an east and west direction, the highest point of which, Blue Mountain Peak, attains an altitude of 7,388 feet. This is the highest elevation in the British West Indies, being more than double the height of Snowdon in Wales. From the central range, subordinate ridges or spurs run to the north and south coasts of the Island; these are the parents of smaller ridges, which branch off in every direction with considerable regularity and method until the whole surface of the country is cut up into a series of ridges with intervening valleys.

4. Numerous rivers and streams suggest the origin of Jamaica's aboriginal Arawak name "Xaymaca," which is supposed to imply an overflowing abundance of rivers. Most of the streams have a rapid fall and are not, to any extent, navigable.

5. Jamaica has many mineral springs, some of which possess valuable properties for the cure of various diseases and infirmities. The two principal are the spring at Bath, in the parish of St. Thomas, and that at Milk River, in the parish of Clarendon. Both these springs are radio-active, the latter in a very marked degree.

6. Jamaica possesses several harbours, the largest and most important being that of Kingston, the Capital, one of the finest natural harbours in the world. This harbour has a total area of some 16 square miles, of which approximately 7 square miles have a depth of from 7 to 10 fathoms.

HISTORICAL.

7. Jamaica was discovered by Columbus on the 3rd of May, 1494. He called it St. Jago, after the Patron Saint of Spain, but the new name was soon dropped in favour of the native one of Jamaica (Xaymaca—well watered). The first settlement on it was effected on the shores of St. Ann's Bay, by Esquivel in 1509, under the direction of Diego, the son of Columbus, while Governor of Hispaniola.

8. Although invaded by Sir Anthony Shirley in 1596 and by Colonel Jackson in 1643, Jamaica remained in the possession of Spaniards for 161 years when it was again attacked by a force sent by Cromwell under Admiral Penn and General Venables, against Hispaniola, and capitulated, after a trifling resistance, on the 11th of May, 1655. Until the Restoration, Jamaica remained under military jurisdiction, but in 1661 a regular civil government was established by Charles II., who appointed General Edward D'Oyley, Governor-in-Chief with an Elective Council. In 1670 peace was made with Spain, and the title of England to Jamaica was recognised by the Treaty of Madrid. The colony grew fast, stimulated by the wealth brought into it by the buccaners, who made Port Royal their headquarters and storehouse. This town was engulfed in the great earthquake of 1692. Kingston then consisted of a few sheds and St. Jago de la Vega (Spanish Town), became practically the capital. During the 18th century, the Island suffered from hurricanes, earthquakes, numerous slave insurrections as well as wars with maroons, or mountaineers, the descendants of African slaves left by the Spaniards, who lived mainly in the east of the island,

among the Blue Mountains. When the Slave Trade was abolished in 1807, there were 319,351 slaves in Jamaica. During the last eight years of the trade, 86,821 slaves were imported. On the abolition of slavery in 1833, Jamaica received £5,853,975 of the £20,000,000 granted by the Imperial Government as compensation to the slave owners. A serious rebellion among the black population in 1865, was suppressed by Governor Eyre.

9. In January, 1907, Kingston was devastated by a terrible earthquake which caused great loss of life and immense destruction of property. A Mansion House Fund was opened and contributions poured in from all parts of the Empire for the relief of distress. A free grant of £150,000 was voted by Parliament and a loan of £300,000 chiefly in aid of the re-building was authorised from the Home Exchequer.

Constitution.

10. The original Constitution granted by Charles II., which after existing for over 200 years, was surrendered in 1865, was a representative one, consisting of a Governor, Nominated Council, and an Elected Assembly, which on its first meeting in 1664 consisted of 20 members but fluctuated in numbers from time to time. The depression caused by the abolition of slavery led to a grave constitutional crisis, the Assembly refusing to vote supplies and endeavouring to enforce sweeping reductions in establishments, without compensation to the displaced officers. Lord Melbourne's Government, 1839, actually introduced a Bill into Parliament for the suspension of the Constitution but was defeated and it was not till 1854 that by a change in the Constitution of the Council, harmony was temporarily restored.

11. After the suppression of the rebellion in 1865, Governor Eyre, at the meeting of the Legislature urged the unsuitability of the then existing form of Government to meet the circumstances of the community and the necessity of making some sweeping change by which a strong Government might be created. The Legislature willingly responded, abrogated all the existing machinery of legislation, and left it to Her Majesty's Government to substitute any other form of Government which might be better suited to the altered circumstances of the Colony.

By Orders in Council of the 11th June, 1866 and 11th November, 1869, a Legislative Council was established, consisting of such numbers of official and unofficial members as Her Majesty might think fit. The numbers of each were six until 1878, when they were enlarged to eight, and a ninth was added in 1881.

12. By Order in Council, dated 19th May, 1884, and Amending Order of 3rd October, 1895, the Constitution was fixed in the following manner:

The Council to consist of the Governor (with only a casting vote) five ex-officio members, viz.: the Senior Military Officer, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, Director of Public Works and Collector General: such other persons, not exceeding ten in number, as Her Majesty may from time to time appoint or as the Governor may from time to time provisionally appoint, and fourteen persons to be elected as therein provided; the Council to be dissolved at the end of five years from the last preceding General Election, if it shall not have been previously dissolved.

13. There is also a Privy Council, with the usual powers and functions of an executive council. It consists of the Lieutenant-Governor

(if any), the Senior Military Officer in command, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney General and such other persons as may be named by the King, or provisionally appointed by the Governor, subject to the approval of His Majesty, the number of members not to exceed eight. The Governor presides at each meeting, and the Governor and two members form a quorum.

14. The first registration under Law 22 of 1886, the Franchise Enlargement Law, was in August, 1887. At the General Election of Members to serve in the Legislative Council which was held in 1925, the number of voters on the list was 54,103. There were ten contested elections, the total number of votes cast being 15,359.

Local Administration.

15. A Corporation of the amalgamated parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew, with a Mayor, Council and Corporate Officers, was set up in 1924. In the 13 other parishes there are Elective Boards with jurisdiction over secondary roads, markets, sanitation, poor relief, water works, and pounds. The chief towns are Kingston (including Port Royal) (population in 1921, 63,711), Spanish Town (population, 8,694), Port Antonio (population, 6,272), Montego Bay (population, 6,580), Falmouth (population, 2,136), Port Maria (population, 2,481), and Savanna-la-Mar (population, 3,442).

16. The parish is the unit of local Government, and each parish has its own institutions managed by the Parochial Board, the members of which are elected by the persons entitled to vote for the election of members of the Legislative Council. The administration of poor relief by the Parochial Boards is controlled by a Board of Supervision. The total number of registered poor in 1927 was 8,030 being at the rate of 8.5 per thousand of population.

Judicial.

17. There is a Supreme Court of Judicature consisting of a Chief Justice and two Puisne Judges. There are also the Kingston Court—"to transact the civil jurisdiction of the Resident Magistrate's Courts for the parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew"—and the Resident Magistrates' Courts and Petty Sessions of Justices of the Peace throughout the Island. The Resident Magistrates, besides holding courts of their own, preside in the Courts of Petty Sessions.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

18. The year 1927 was in most respects a very satisfactory one for Jamaica. Although high winds and rain towards the end of the year did considerable damage, destroying about a million and a half stems of bananas and entailing an expenditure of some forty thousand pounds in repairs to roads and railways, the Colony was so fortunate as to be spared once more from the ravages of hurricanes, and the year as a whole was a good one in respect of agriculture.

19. The most striking feature of the year was that the exports of bananas reached the high figure of over twenty-one million stems, an increase of more than three million stems over that of the year 1926.

20. The exports of coffee increased by over a million and a half pounds and as a result of the application of the Produce Protection Law, there was a marked improvement in the quality of the coffee produced by small settlers.

21. For the same reasons there was a distinct improvement in the quality of ordinary cocoa, so that, although the year's exports show a reduction of some 5,000 cwt., compared with those of 1926 there are good prospects for the future. It should be noted that though the quantities exported were smaller the value of the cocoa was considerably greater than in the previous year.

22. The number of coconuts exported reached the record figure of over 32 million, an increase of nine million on the figures for 1926, and though this increase was to some extent offset by a reduction of about sixteen hundred thousand pounds of copra, the total value of coconut products, exported showed an increase of something like £33,000.

23. Pimento also showed an increase of approximately 10 per cent. in quantity and over £60,000 in value.

24. As regards citrus fruits, there was a great decrease in the export of oranges but grapefruit maintained the position secured in 1926.

25. As one indication of the plenitude of money during the year, it may be mentioned that the value of the motor cars imported amounted to over £227,000 of which more than £72,000 was accounted for by cars manufactured in the British Empire. Five years previously the corresponding figures were £120,807 and £19,000 respectively.

26. That the circumstances of classes other than those that own motor cars were also improved may be inferred from the fact that the number of tax accounts in arrears on the 31st of December, showed a decrease of almost 15 per cent. on that for 1926.

27. It is also generally accepted that a reduction of the prison population is an indication that the conditions of life among the poorer classes have been easier and the figures in this respect for 1927 show a reduction of nearly 10 per cent. on those for 1926.

28. The most noteworthy event of 1927 was the visit paid to the Colony by Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of York, on their way to Australia to open the new Commonwealth Parliament buildings at Canberra.

Their Royal Highnesses arrived in the Island on the 20th of January and left on the 23rd: brief as was their visit they nevertheless won the hearts of one and all in Jamaica.

29. In February, the Hon. L. H. Tennyson brought out an English Cricket team which played three matches against "All-Jamaica". These periodical visits besides improving the standard of local cricket do much to strengthen the good feeling towards the Mother Country which obtains amongst the inhabitants of the Colony.

30. During this month the Jamaica Philatelic Society held a successful exhibition in Kingston.

31. In March, a strong squadron of the United States Navy visited Kingston and remained for some days.

32. The Canada-West Indian Trade Agreement which was signed at Ottawa, in 1925 and ratified by the Canadian Parliament in 1926 was brought into operation on the 30th of April.

33. During the year the Jamaica Banana Producers Association was formed. The object of the Association is the marketing of bananas and citrus fruits on co-operative lines.

34. In the latter part of November an Empire Shopping Week was inaugurated by the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce and Merchants' Exchange for the development of Trade within the Empire, and met with much success.

35. The Honourable Arthur Selborne Jelf, Colonial Secretary, was honoured by the King on the occasion of His Majesty's Birthday

with the Companionship of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George. Mr. Jelf was invested with the Order by His Royal Highness the Duke of York during the Royal Visit in January.

36. During the year under review the following changes took place in the Civil Service of the Colony:

Mr. C. E. Law, Resident Magistrate was appointed Judge of the Kingston Court.

Lt. J. H. Owen, D.S.C., R.N.R., Harbour Master, Kingston, was appointed Harbour Master, Malacca.

Mr. W. T. Fretz, Attorney-General, St. Lucia, was appointed Resident Magistrate.

Mr. T. D. H. Bruce, Resident Magistrate, was appointed Solicitor-General, Kenya Colony.

Mr. Adrian Clark, O.B.E., Stipendiary Magistrate, Trinidad, was appointed Puisne Judge.

Mr. A. E. V. Barton, Comptroller of Customs of British Guiana was appointed Collector General.

Commander C. C. Dix, C.M.G., D.S.O., Harbour Master, Barbados, was appointed Harbour Master, Jamaica, vice Lt. Owen.

Dr. A. S. Westmorland, Resident Medical Officer at the Public Hospital, Kingston, was appointed Senior Medical Officer.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

37. There has been but little fluctuation in the tide of Emigration and Immigration during recent years. The departures in 1925, were 5,449, in 1926, 5,102 and in 1927, 4,755. The arrivals in 1925, were 4,924, in 1926, 5,625 and in 1927, 5,896.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION.

38. The increased interest in Public Health reported last year, continued and much was done towards improving sanitation.

39. Health Week was observed by all the parishes and was a great success.

40. The Hookworm Campaign extended its activities to the parishes of Portland and St. Mary and the parishes of St. Andrew and Manchester carried through the preliminary sanitation of their districts without aid from the central authorities.

41. Alastrim, which has been in the Island since 1920, has almost been eradicated. Only a few sporadic cases were reported in the last half of the year. No other epidemic was reported during the year.

42. A Malarial Survey and a Tuberculosis Survey have been arranged for in the coming year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

43. The estimated population of Jamaica at the close of the year 1927 was 953,768, this figure being arrived at by taking the estimated population at the 31st of December, 1926, adding thereto the births and arrivals and deducting therefrom the deaths and departures during the year ended 31st of December, 1927.

44. The number of marriages registered during 1927, was 4,412 the rate being 4.6 per 1,000 of population, as compared with 4.2 for 1926. During the same period 32,910 births were registered of

which 16,453 were boys and 16,457 were girls. The birth rate works out at 34.7 per 1,000 as against 38.4 during 1926.

45. The number of deaths registered was 20,015 of which 9,972 were males and 10,043 females, the death rate being 21.1 per 1,000. The rate for 1926 was 20.5. During 1927, 7,287 or 36.5 per cent. of the total deaths, were those of children under two years of age and of these 5,708 or 28.5 per cent. were those of children under one year of age. The corresponding figures in 1926 were 40.0 per cent. and 31.5 per cent. The total infantile death rate under one year was 17.3 per cent. as compared with 16.8 in 1926.

46. The principal causes of death per 100 of total deaths among the inhabitants of Kingston were:—

Diarrhoea and Enteritis, 6.2; Congenital Debility, 11.6; Tuberculosis, 10.1; Typhoid Fever, 8.1; Pneumonia, 9.5; Heart Disease, 7.2; Syphilis, 2.7 Cerebral Haemorrhage, Apoplexy, 3.8; Old Age, 3.7.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

47. The Colony's trade in 1927 was the most satisfactory since the war, for although the extravagant figures of the post war boom were not approached, the high mark reached was directly due to steady progress over several years.

48. The value of the Imports (exclusive of goods imported through the Parcels Post) amounted to £5,717,521 as compared with £5,365,950 in 1926. Prices continued to fall, and the quantity of goods imported was relatively greater.

Class I.—(Food, Drink and Tobacco) showed a decrease in value of £11,238. Nevertheless the quantities of butter, salted and corned fish, rice, flour, salt beef, condensed milk, edible oils and refined sugar imported showed a considerable increase. The only notable decrease was in pickled fish.

Class II.—(Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured) also showed a decrease of £8,797 which is accounted for chiefly by decreased importations of coal. The 1926 figures were however swelled by vessels taking coal here during the strike in England, and the local coaling of vessels shows a progressive tendency. There were largely increased importations of timber, petroleum, oils, &c.

Class III.—(Manufactured Articles) showed an increase of £367,673 owing chiefly to larger importations of cotton piece goods, silks, apparel, boots and shoes, motor vehicles and soap. With regard to the sources of supply the United States furnished 34% of the total imports, the United Kingdom 29%, Canada 19% and other countries 18%.

The yield from Import Duties amounted to £984,580, an increase of £66,731 over that of the previous year.

49. The Package Tax realized £63,118 or £4,653 more than in 1926. Of this total £47,339 was allocated to General Revenue whilst £15,779 went to the credit of the parishes in which the Tax was collected. Of the latter amount Kingston received £13,286.

50. The improvement noticed in the Island's Export Trade towards the close of 1926 continued in 1927 and resulted in an increased value of £598,235, i.e., from £4,236,855 in 1926 to £4,835,090 in 1927.

51. As regards individual quantities, an increase of 2,850,471 stems of bananas brought the total for that fruit to 21,151,881 stems, thus constituting a record in the history of the Colony. Prices again improved, the average being 4/- per count bunch as against 3/- in 1926.

Figures for sugar, rum and copra are dealt with under Manufactures. 33,179,198 coconuts were exported as against 23,040,616 in 1926.

Cocoa fell off 324,753 lbs. in weight with a total of 6,414,063 lbs., but the value increased from £122,374 to £176,477.

9,152,673 lbs. of coffee valued at £320,178 were exported showing a fair increase in both respects over 1926. In addition to the articles shown above as "manufactures", other exports included oranges 86,238 boxes, or two-thirds of the 1926 figure; honey, 2,269,888 lbs., a large increase over 1926; ginger, a slight decrease at 2,789,404 lbs.; pimento 9,864,441 lbs., an increase of 15%, and logwood 25,641 a decrease of 15%. The chief of the minor products were hides and skins.

52. The markets to which we sent our Exports varied slightly. The United Kingdom took 18.9% of the total, chiefly logwood extract, rum, sugar and bananas; Canada absorbed 17.5% comprising mainly coffee and sugar, whilst the United States claimed 44.7% consisting principally of fruit, nuts and cocoa. Other countries took bananas, dye-woods, logwood extract, pimento and tobacco to the extent of 21.9%.

A matter of note was the large increase in the export of bananas to Germany, which took nearly 18% of the total exported.

II.—GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

53. The following statement shows the Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony during the past five years:—

<i>Revenue.</i>				
1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.
£	£	£	£	£
2,061,202	1,922,963	2,021,046	2,147,042	2,275,094
<i>Expenditure.</i>				
1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.
£	£	£	£	£
2,074,271	2,022,746	2,009,593	2,046,205	1,980,888

54. The total Expenditure during the year 1927-28 was £294,206 less than the total Revenue.

The assets and liabilities at 31st March, 1928, were £1,173,868 and £754,256 respectively.

The year therefore closed with a surplus of £419,612.

55. The amount of Public Debt outstanding at 31st March, 1928, was £4,922,330. The Sinking Funds for the redemption of the debt amounted to £2,199,437. If the amount standing to the credit of the Sinking Funds be deducted from the Public Debt, the difference (£2,722,893) exceeds by only £702,518 the estimated Revenue for the current financial year (1928-29). As most of the investments on account of the Sinking Funds have in recent years been made at rates varying from 5% to 6%, the accumulations of these funds will accrue in advance of the original calculations which were made at lower rates of interest.

56. For purposes of comparison, it may be interesting to append a tabulated statement of the incidence of the Public Debts of the United Kingdom and Jamaica in 1927.

	<u>Population.</u>	<u>National Debt.</u>	<u>Per Capita.</u>
		£	£
United Kingdom ..	48,000,000	7,652,687,904	159.4
		Public Debt.	
Jamaica	904,405	4,671,640	5.1

If the accumulations standing to the credit of the Jamaica Sinking Funds on 31st March, 1927, viz.: £2,023,586 be deducted from the Public Debt at that date, the amount per capita is £2 18s. 6d. The year 1926-27 has been taken as the figures relative to the United Kingdom for the year 1927-28 are not available locally.

57. The Colony's Insurance Fund against earthquake, hurricane or calamity of a like nature amounted to £159,310 at 31st March, 1928.

TAXATION.

58. The following laws relating to taxation were passed during the year:—

(1) Law 6 of 1927 "A Law to continue various Expiring Laws"—This Law continued in force from the 1st April, 1927, the following Laws:—

(a) The Package Tax (Temporary) Law 1919, Law 9 of 1919.

(b) The Excise Duties (Temporary increase) Law 1920 (9 of 1920) with the exception of the surtax on matches and King's Warehouse fees.

(2) Law 11 of 1927. A Law to amend the Tariff Law 4 of 1925, to give effect to the provisions of the Canada West Indies Trade Agreement, 1925.

(3) Law 29 of 1927. A Law to further amend the Tariff Law 4 of 1925. This law was introduced to stimulate local production of the following articles, viz.:—Biscuits, matches, edible oils, potatoes, laundry soap, cigarettes, cigars, cordage, sauce and corn.

CURRENCY.

59. Local Currency Notes, which are legal tender under Section 5 of Law 27 of 1904, were in circulation on 31st December, 1927, to the extent of £79,783 12s. 6d. in denominations of 2/6, 5/, and 10/.

<u>2/6 Notes.</u>	<u>5/ Notes.</u>	<u>10/ Notes.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
132 12 6	37,535 10 0	42,115 10 0	79,783 12 6

The notes of the denomination of 2/6 are gradually being withdrawn from circulation.

III.—ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.

TRADE.

60. The following statement compares the values of Exports and Imports for certain years since 1886. It must, however, be pointed

out that in 1886 the values were calculated on an F.O.B. basis, whilst in 1927 they were calculated on a C.I.F. basis.

	1886 to 30.9.86.	1896 to 31.3.97.	1906 to 31.3.07.	1916 to 31.12.16.	1926 to 31.12.26.	1927 to 31.12.27.
Value of Exports	1,280,118	1,470,241	1,992,007	2,821,234	4,236,855	4,835,000
Value of Imports	1,332,336	1,856,377	2,261,469	3,107,004	5,365,950	5,717,521

In considering these figures, the excess of Imports over Exports is explained partly by the tourist trade, and partly by the fact that many Jamaican labourers abroad remit money to their dependents in the Island. There are also the explanations common to all trade figures such as the quotation of Imports C.I.F. and of Exports F.O.B.

AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.

61. Although the Island rainfall for 1927 was 4 inches below normal, the distribution was again favourable for agricultural production.

62. The outstanding fact of 1927 was the exportation of 21,151,881 stems of bananas, an increase of over 3 million stems over the previous record of 1926, and but for the autumnal gales which destroyed 2 million stems of fruit the banana crop of 1927 would have passed the 23 million mark.

63. The fight against Panama Disease has continued. With an increased staff of Inspectors, it has been possible to supervise the chief banana areas. The records show that 40,000 diseased plants were dealt with during the year.

64. The parish of Portland continues to supply over 70 per cent. of cases of this disease. Encouragement has followed the commercial cultivation of the immune "Robusta" banana on clay lands in St. Mary infected with Panama Disease.

65. The Banana Breeding Experiments are now approaching a very interesting stage.

A number of hybrids between edible species have grown so quickly that fruit may be expected in 2½ years from sowing the seed. The variations in seedlings from the same cross are marked and it is hoped that continuous efforts in the raising of cross-fertilised banana seedlings will produce the immune commercial banana required to solve the problem of Panama Disease.

66. The exports of coffee show an increase of over 2½ million pounds in weight. The Jamaica Agricultural Society and the Department continued the work of issuing coffee plants whereby 59,000 plants were sold to the public at one shilling per hundred—the estimated cost of production of these seedlings.

67. The effect of the new Produce Protection Law has been quite marked in the case of small settlers' coffee which had previously been badly prepared and deteriorated greatly through the absence of proper and necessary equipment for the production of good commercial coffee. Co-operative selling of small settlers' coffee has been tried with success. This should lead to a great improvement in the coffee trade of the Colony which is now chiefly in the hands of small growers.

68. Cacao shows a small reduction on last year's record of 3,000 tons. Here, again, the Produce Protection Law with its drastic provisions has forced a number of Chinese buyers of cacao to erect suitable apparatus for curing and drying the cacao which they buy from small producers. Commercial firms report that a marked improvement in Jamaica "ordinary" cacao has recently taken place.

69. Coconuts.—A record for the coconut industry was created in 1927 by the export of over 32 million nuts and copra to a total equivalent of 55,730,000 nuts, as against an equivalent of 51,439,000 nuts in 1926 which constituted the previous record for coconuts from Jamaica.

By the passing of a protective duty on imported Cottonseed and bean oils the Legislative Council at its Autumn Session sought to inaugurate a local industry in the production of edible coconut oil. The Government Laboratory has carried out successfully, experiments to test the simplest methods of (a) deodorising (b) removing rancidity from native coconut oils.

The health of the coconut groves remains excellent and a marked recovery has been made by the plantations at the eastern end of the Colony which were damaged by the hurricane of 1917.

70. Sugar continues to improve and the exports for 1927 stood at just over 50,000 tons, valued at £800,000. An even larger crop may be expected this year, for favourable seasons combined with a higher standard of tilling on the larger areas of sugar cane have produced the highest tonnage of canes grown in Jamaica for the past half century. The substitution of some of the new canes introduced by the Department of Agriculture for the standard estate cane has greatly improved the yield of sugar on many fields and a rapid extension of new canes is now taking place.

71. The problem of Rum remains one of grave difficulty. Estates are seeking to reduce the production of rum by every means and some are even using molasses as manure for the cane fields, a proceeding hitherto unknown in this Colony, which had always been able to find a profitable use for molasses in the manufacture of rum. Some new canes resistant to Mosaic Disease are of great promise and the best of these are being propagated at Hope for issue to planters next season.

72. The Fibre industry has received encouragement by the fiscal protection for locally made Sisal rope which was effected by the Legislature at its Autumn Session. The Government Sisal Plantation and Factory at Lititz has been leased and is now to be operated by the lessee.

73. Ginger yielded a good crop slightly below that of 1926.

74. Citrus suffered a decline of 50 per cent. in the export of oranges. Grapefruit, however, shows an increase of 4,000 boxes and now stands at 80,000 boxes approximately. The Department continued to supply grapefruit plants on a large scale, a total of 90,000 plants having been issued in 1926 and 1927.

75. The loss in trade from oranges was offset by an increase in the manufacture of orange oil from 64,000 to 88,000 lbs. Under present conditions of transport and trade it would appear that Jamaica is more likely to secure a good trade for grapefruit with Canada and England than for oranges.

In a few years the large plantings of grapefruit recently established should have an effect on the available supply of grapefruit for export.

76. Honey, due to a more favourable year, increased from 124,000 to 156,000 gallons (approximately). The Foul-brood epidemic in Kingston and St. Andrew was successfully dealt with by burning all infected hives and a system of frequent inspection of all apiaries in the declared area. For the past seven months no new cases have been found and the Order has now been revoked.

77. Logwood.—A modest recovery has taken place but the exports of wood show a reduction on those for the previous year. A good deal of logwood has recently been cut and chipped at the west end of the Island and there would appear to be some recovery in the trade in this dyewood.

78. Tobacco again shows a drop in the export of cigars. The Jamaica Agricultural Society is carrying on a system of nurseries and prizes to encourage the tobacco industry among small growers in St. Elizabeth and other places. The duty on imported cigarettes having been raised there is now a greater encouragement to the local producers of native cigarettes.

79. Animal Diseases—No cases of Anthrax or Foot and Mouth Disease occurred in 1927.

80. Livestock.—The Legislature having decided to reduce the area of "Grove Place" in Manchester from 3,000 to 1,000 acres by sale of 2,000 acres for purposes of land settlement, the herd was reduced from 450 to approximately 200 head which is now regarded as a convenient number to utilise the pastures associated with the public Stud Farm at this centre.

The sum of £2,397 was realised from the sale of cattle at "Grove Place" and paid to the credit of General Revenue.

The Hope Farm had a very successful year and substantial improvements were effected out of current revenue.

The average milk yield of the herd has been increased by 45 per cent. since 1922 by selection and breeding.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

81. The Farm School at Hope has been enlarged and improved in many ways and is now in a flourishing condition with 54 students in residence.

THE GOVERNMENT STOCK FARM, HOPE.

82. When the Farm School was started 18 years ago, the lands available for practical farming were only about 50 acres in extent and the live stock at the start consisted of 5 horses, 3 donkeys, 15 cattle, 2 pigs, 4 sheep. In the following year, the old Hope lands of approximately 1,600 acres in extent were leased at a rental of £200 per annum for the extension of the operations of the Farm School. These lands were purchased by Government for £5,423 in 1914 and have been placed free of rent at the disposal of the Agricultural Department for the development of a Government Stock Farm to be operated in conjunction with the Farm School. Although no rent has been paid, large sums have been expended by the Farm in the development of the Estate which is now valued in the region of £28,000.

IV.—PROGRESS IN THE INVESTIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

83. With the exception of a small amount of triangulation survey work which has within recent years been carried out by the Military

Authorities for their own information, the Island has never been properly surveyed, and therefore its area cannot be said to have been accurately determined. It is however, estimated to contain 2,848,160 acres, of which 2,566,977 acres have been alienated, leaving 281,183 un-alienated or in process of alienation, of which about 10,000 acres is morass land.

84. Alienation began immediately after the Spaniards were driven out of Jamaica in 1655, for in the month of October of that year, under the Cromwellian regime, the Protector issued a Proclamation with regard to the settlement of the Island in which it was provided, *inter alia*, that, "Those who shall transport themselves (*i.e.*, to Jamaica) as aforesaid shall have land set forth unto them according to the proportion of 20 acres besides lakes and rivers for every male of 12 years and upwards, and ten acres every other male or female, etc., etc." The process of alienation, rather slow at first was considerably accelerated during the earlier part of the eighteenth century on account of the development of the sugar and rum industries, and the cultivation of coffee, with the result, that, at the close of the century, the total acreage of estates had increased to an extent more than commensurate with their requirements.

85. The abolition of slavery in 1838, and the adverse fortunes of sugar, caused the abandonment of a large number of properties, and in process of time these were squatted on by persons having no equitable claim to them.

86. Between the years 1867 and 1887 the Government by successive legislative enactments became trustees of all lands in the possession of persons, without any legal or equitable title, and in this way, upwards of 27,000 acres were recovered from 1,600 squatters. The lands so recovered are scattered all over the Island. Some of them have been restored to their rightful owners, some have been sold and some still remain in the possession of the Government.

87. During the year 1890, the Jamaica Railway was sold to the West India Improvement Company, one of the conditions of the purchase being that the Government should give the Company one square mile of Government lands for every mile of railroad constructed, and about the year 1894, 74,443 acres were conveyed to the Company, leaving 2,367 acres to be conveyed later on. In 1911 this large acreage passed back into the hands of the Government who purchased it for £18,435.

88. Within recent years, the Government has granted to 300 time-expired East Indian Immigrants 3,333 acres in lieu of return passages to India, each adult receiving 10 acres, with an additional acre for each child born in the Island.

89. The scheme for the sale of Crown lands to small settlers, which was inaugurated in 1897, is still in operation, and up to the 31st December, 1927, 46,852 acres have been sold, and put in the possession of instalment and outright purchasers. The largest sale made during 1927 was 414 acres of morass land to one purchaser for £70. In all cases in which the full amount of purchase money has been paid the purchasers have received titles from the Government.

90. There are large numbers of prædial tenants on the Crown lands who pay rent at from 12s. to 16s. per nominal acre per annum. While the value of private property has increased to an appreciable extent, during the past few years, Crown lands are still being sold at from £1

to £5 per acre, according to their situation and fertility. The lands are, for the most part, in remote situations and difficult of access.

91. As regards progress in the investigation and development of the natural resources of the Island little has been done by the Government beyond the publication of a Report by James G. Sawkins, F.G.S., on "The Geology of Jamaica" in 1889 and a Report upon "The Forests of Jamaica," by E. D. M. Hooper, of the Indian Forestry Department, in 1886.

92. There is no Forestry Department in the Island, and the cultivation of timber trees is an unknown industry. Almost all the timber which clothed the plains and much of that which clothed the hill slopes up to 2,500 feet above sea level, and in some places up to 4,500 feet, has been destroyed. In a few places destruction has extended to a higher elevation than 5,000 feet.

93. The history of forest denudation may be described as the history of peasant cultivation and goes back to the days of slavery, during which it was decided by an Act of the Local Legislature that an acre of yams was to be grown for every ten slaves. Mr. Hooper asserted that the forests were becoming poorer and the area under hardwood smaller, and this without the woods being utilized for their timber, or the area under cultivation or pasture being materially increased by the clearing of the land. Mr. Hooper's remarks are of the same cogency to-day as when they were written 42 years ago. Efforts are, however, being made by some landowners to remedy this wanton destruction by the planting of timber trees and they are being encouraged by the free distribution by the Government of certain classes of seedlings.

94. With reference to mining, it appears that attempts at exploiting this industry were made from the earliest times in the known history of the Island, and it might not be out of place to state that in 1511, the King of Spain in a despatch to Diego Colon, the son of the discoverer of Jamaica, wrote as follows:—

"Juan de Esquivel (the first Governor of Jamaica) and the Christians in Xaymaca should endeavour to find gold." In 1519 the King ordered the "Controller" of Jamaica to "report every year as to the gold smelteries," and in 1521, the Spanish Sovereign announced that, "colonists should only pay one-tenth instead of one-fifth of the gold smelted for the next 8 years." In 1601, Melgarejo de Cordova, the then Governor, wrote that he was informed that "in the Bastidas Mountains" (eastern part of the Blue Mountains) there was a "a large amount of gold."

95. At this time it appears that the existence of copper in the Island was well known because, in 1597 Pedro d'Acna, the Governor of Cartagena, wrote to Melgarejo suggesting that he should send him some Jamaica copper ore to be tested, and in the following year the Governor of Jamaica in writing home referred to the copper which he was sending to Cartagena "for the founding of artillery." He refers to "mines situated at sea ports" and wanted the artillery forging done in Jamaica. The location of these mines appears to have been completely lost on account of the extermination of the native Indians as a result of Spanish cruelty, an epidemic of small pox, and wholesale suicides caused by drinking cassava water.

96. Individuals and Companies have, during the past 70 years, endeavoured to emulate the efforts of the Spanish miners of the 16th century. These efforts have not so far as is known been directed

towards prospecting on the Crown Lands, but have been confined to properties long since alienated from the Crown.

97. It is interesting to note that gold was found in the Charing Cross Copper Mine in Clarendon nearly 70 years ago, and having been mistaken for pyrites, was actually thrown away. In 1857, the Wheal Copper Co. extracted from the Charing Cross Mine, 208 tons of copper ore which was shipped to the English and American markets and sold for £2,817. The highest price paid was £24 15s. 0d. per ton, and the lowest £9 2s. 9d., the average figure being £13 1s. 3d. per ton.

98. Recent experiments have shown that, by means of a carbonizing process, half-formed coal called "lignite" may be used largely as a substitute for coal, and in this connection it is interesting to recall that about 35 years ago, certain deposits, declared to be "lignite," were found at Lichfield Mountain in the parish of Trelawny. The greater portion of Lichfield Mountain was in 1915 sold by Government in lots to small settlers, who had resided on the property for many years.

99. In 1923, Dr. C. A. Matley, F.G.S., who was then Government Geologist, reported the discovery of an issue of natural gas (methane) from a salt spring near the mouth of the valley through which the Great River flows, in the parish of St. Ann. The geological relationships of this spring to the associated strata indicate the possibility of the occurrence of petroleum in the neighbourhood. Dr. Matley's reports on the subject are published at pages 396-398 of the Jamaica Gazette, dated 25th of September, 1924, and pages 13-15 of the Jamaica Gazette dated the 15th of January, 1925.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEYS.

100. No surveys of this nature were undertaken during the year.

FISHING.

101. This industry, which is regarded as an important and lucrative one in every maritime country, continues to languish in this Colony, with the result that there is a marked shortage in the fresh fish diet. The price of fresh fish is exorbitantly high, but no improvement seems likely to take place until the industry is properly organized and controlled. With 400 miles of seaboard, it is hard to understand why the bulk of fish consumed should be imported in the cured state. Transport facilities, both on land and sea, have greatly increased in recent years, but are not being taken advantage of and the supply of fish is precarious and below the demand. There is room for the expansion of the industry if it be handled on intelligent lines instead of by the haphazard and antiquated methods at present employed.

102. As a sport, good facilities are offered for fishing both on sea and on the larger rivers and visitors occasionally indulge in the pastime.

MANUFACTURES.

103. The principal articles manufactured are Sugar, Rum, Copra, Sisal Hemp, Banana Figs, Essential Oils, Cigars, Cigarettes, Leather and Logwood Extract.

104. *Sugar*.—The Sugar industry has been improving since 1925 for the more lucrative prices received in 1925 stimulated production. In 1927 we exported 49,799 tons, an increase of 1,644 tons over the 1926 figure, and 12,073 over 1925, though prices were lower in 1926-27 than in 1925.

105. *Rum*.—The local consumption of Rum increased to some extent. The quantity exported, however, though greater than in 1926, fell short of the 1925 quantity, as the following figures indicate.

Year.	Exports.
1925	1,121,332 gallons
1926	693,435 “
1927	740,528 “

106. *Copra*.—The manufacture of Copra decreased from 9,682,834 lbs. in 1926 to 8,078,991 lbs., but this was more than set off by an increased export of coconuts.

107. *Sisal Hemp*.—Only 1,503 bales were exported as against 2,349 in 1926, but the production of Sisal rope increased from 92 to 119 tons.

108. *Banana Figs*.—The output of Banana Figs in 1927 was 879,421 lbs. as against 745,919 lbs. in 1926.

109. *Essential Oils*.—These consist chiefly of orange and lime oils. 13,319 gallons were produced as against 7,638 in 1926. There was, however, a large decrease in the quantity of oranges exported, and much fruit went to waste.

110. *Cigars and Cigarettes*.—The Cigar industry continued to decline, and the export figure of 61,519 lbs. was less than in 1926 by 14,821 lbs. This, however, was due to a strike at the chief factory, and not to a decreased demand. The cigarette industry received a stimulus from the protective tariff introduced in November, and showed a great immediate improvement.

111. *Leather*.—The tanneries in the various parts of the Island and the Leather Factory in the capital are kept busy. In addition to the large quantity consumed locally, 15,471 lbs. were exported.

112. *Logwood Extract*.—The manufacture of Logwood Extract, which re-commenced in 1926, continued to progress, and 9,806 packages valued at £103,988 were exported as compared with 7,197 packages valued at £74,830 in 1926.

113. The Minor Industries include Aerated and Mineral Waters, Ice, Soap, Coconut Oil, Jippi Jappa Hats, Baskets and Furniture. By Law 29 of 1927 Import Duties on soap and edible oils were increased, and present indications point to a probable development of these industries locally.

WATER POWER.

114. There has been little progress in the development of Water Power. The only plant of importance in the Island, which is operated by water power, is that of the Jamaica Public Service Company, Ltd., which generates electricity for the purpose of operating tramways and lighting Kingston and lower St. Andrew.

115. The desirability of utilizing the water from some of the rivers for the development of electric energy has from time to time been

considered, and many of the rivers of the Island have been investigated with this object. Legislation has been enacted to control and regulate the use of water for public and private purposes.

116. A scheme has been formulated for developing hydro-electrical power in conjunction with the improvement of the water supply of Kingston and lower St. Andrew, but the project has been postponed for the present. A small private plant, developing about 250 H.P. by means of a dam and reservoir, has been installed at Serge Island Sugar Estate in St. Thomas. Power is transmitted some $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the Sugar Factory, Saw Mills, etc.

V.—BANKS AND BANKING FACILITIES.

117. The commercial Banks doing business in the Island are Barclay's Bank—Dominion, Colonial and Overseas (formerly the Colonial Bank), The Bank of Nova Scotia, The Royal Bank of Canada and the Canadian Bank of Commerce.

118. The value of the local notes of each Bank outstanding at the 31st of December, 1927, was as follows:—

	£
Barclay's Bank—Dominion, Colonial and Overseas (formerly the Colonial Bank)	139,349
The Bank of Nova Scotia	25,118
The Royal Bank of Canada	16,226
The Canadian Bank of Commerce	5,988

These Banks all have their principal Offices for the Island in Kingston.

Barclay's Bank has branches at Annotto Bay, Falmouth, Lucea, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, Savanna-la-Mar and St. Ann's Bay.

The Bank of Nova Scotia has branches at Black River, Brown's Town, Mandeville, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, St. Ann's Bay, Savanna-la-Mar and Spanish Town.

The Royal Bank of Canada has one branch at Montego Bay.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce has no branches.

119. A Government Savings Bank was started in the Colony in 1870. This Bank used to allow interest on deposits at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ per annum. When, however, the commercial Banks entered the field by starting savings branches and giving higher rates of interest and more facilities to depositors, the deposits of the Government Savings Bank declined considerably, and steps were taken to re-organise the Bank by the passing of Law 7 of 1917. Under this Law, the management of the Bank was placed in the hands of a Board. New regulations were drawn up and approved by the Governor in Privy Council and the rate of interest on deposits was increased to that given by the commercial Banks, namely 3% per annum, compounded half-yearly. There are now 84 branches throughout the Island as compared with 19 prior to the re-organization, and the Bank's progress is fully demonstrated by the following figures:—

- (a) Balance at credit of depositors in 1919, £287,178; in 1927, £573,646.
- (b) Investments held in British and Colonial and other securities in 1919 amounted to £335,734, and in 1927 to £546,825.
- (c) The net profit paid into General Revenue in 1919 was £964, £3,082 was paid into General Revenue as net profit for

1926, and £1,313 was carried to the Reserve Fund. The net profit for 1927, all of which will be carried to the Reserve Fund, is £4,921.

120. Under Law 11 of 1925, which repealed Law 7 of 1917, the funds of the Government Savings Bank may be invested (1) in British and Colonial Securities, (2) in loans to Agricultural Loan Societies, (3) in real securities in Jamaica (4) on deposit in Banks, (5) in any other manner authorised by the Governor in Privy Council.

121. *Co-Operative Loan Banks*.—There are 55 Co-Operative Loan Banks on the Register under the Industrial and Provident Societies Law (33 of 1902). The greater number of these were started early in 1913, in order to handle loans made by the Government for the resuscitation of cultivations damaged by the drought and hurricane of the previous year. Loans were also made through Loan Banks in 1916-17 and 1918, in consequence of the hurricanes of 1916 and 1917. These loans were made through the Agricultural Loan Societies Board under the provisions of Statutes giving the Banks extraordinary powers of recovering loans. Loans have also been made to the Banks under Law 6 of 1912, "A Law for the encouragement of Agricultural Loan Societies," such moneys being used with their own funds for the purpose of making loans to their members for short periods on personal security, note of hand, mortgage, etc., for agricultural and industrial purposes, *e. g.*, for the purchase of stock, cane mills, tools and the like. These Banks have supplied a long felt want among the small settlers.

122. The following figures, referring to 37 Banks which obtained loans from Government funds, will serve to show the extent of their operations:

Total loans made to 31st December, 1927	..	£122,076	1	4
Repayments do do ..	..	108,858	19	0
Balances outstanding .. ..	..	13,217	2	4

The Co-operative Loan Banks also collected to 31st December, 1926, a sum of £38,674 share capital in addition to £108,859 loan moneys repaid with interest. These figures indicate that the work of the Loan Banks has been successfully carried out and that they are likely to prove of permanent benefit to small holders and peasant proprietors. Some of these Banks have extended their sphere of usefulness by taking advantage of the Land Settlement Scheme, whereby Government moneys are lent for the purchase of properties for re-sale in lots to small settlers. £56,641 has been loaned to nine Banks for this purpose.

VI.—LEGISLATION.

123. Thirty-nine Laws were passed during the year 1927. A brief summary of those which may be considered to be of general interest is given below.

Law 1 of 1927.—A Law to enable Law Agents to act for remuneration in conveyancing and other matters. Under this Law, Law Agents admitted by the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands are entitled, for reward, to act in the Cayman Islands in the preparation or completion of, or in advising on, any Contract, Conveyance, Lease, Mortgage, Will, or other Instrument.

Law 2 of 1927.—A Law to make further provision for expenses incurred in the extension of the Chapelton to Frankfield Railway. This Law empowers the Governor to raise a loan of £12,840, to meet

the extra cost incurred in completing the extension of the Chapelton to Frankfield Railway and making up the amount by which the original loan fell short.

- Law 3 of 1927.*—A Law to prohibit the photographing of prisoners. This Law makes it an offence for anyone to take or attempt to take, with a view to publication, any portrait or sketch of any prisoner.
- Law 4 of 1927.*—A Law to authorise the raising of loans in England independently of the General Loan and Inscribed Stock Law 1921, and of the Colonial Treasury Bills Law 1922. This Law gives power to the Governor or the Crown Agents acting on his behalf, to raise loans in England independently of anything contained in the General Loan and Inscribed Stock Law 1921 (Law 12 of 1921) and The Colonial Treasury Bills Law 1922 (Law 11 of 1922). The principal moneys and interest on any such loan are to be charged upon and payable out of the General Revenues of this Colony.
- Law 8 of 1927.*—A Law to suppress obscene publications. This Law makes it an offence for any person who for the purposes of or by way of trade or for distribution or public exhibition makes or produces or has in his possession any obscene writings, drawings, prints, paintings, or any other obscene objects.
- Law 9 of 1927.*—A Law to amend the Motor Vehicle Law, 1922 (Law 21 of 1922). This Law amends and substitutes new sections in the principal Law, namely Law 21 of 1922.
- Law 10 of 1927.*—A Law relating to the carriage of goods by sea. This Law deals with carriage of goods by sea in ships carrying goods from any port in this Island to any other port whether in or outside of this Island, and also secures international uniformity of Maritime Law as regards bills of lading.
- Law 11 of 1927.*—A Law to amend the Tariff Law 1925 (Law 4 of 1925). The first schedule to the principal Law (Law 4 of 1925) is repealed by this Law and a new schedule substituted.
- Law 15 of 1927.*—A Law to amend the Protection from Diseases (Plants) Law 1925. Under this Law it is compulsory for any owner, tenant, occupier, or other person in charge of lands, who knows or suspects the existence of any notifiable plant disease on the land, with all practicable speed, to give notice thereof in writing to the Director of Agriculture of the fact.
- Law 17 of 1927.*—A Law to amend the Agricultural Produce Law 1926 (Law 19 of 1926). This Law repeals sections 2 (5) and 24 (4) and substitutes new sub-sections and also adds a new sub-section to section 17 of the principal Law, namely Law 19 of 1926.
- Law 21 of 1927.*—A Law to regulate Local Forces in the Island. This Law deals with the constitution and actual service of Local Forces. "Local Forces" under this Law means the Jamaica Militia Artillery, the Kingston Infantry Volunteers, the Band, and any other Corps raised in the Colony in accordance with the provisions of any Law.
- Law 25 of 1927.*—A Law to provide for the trial "in camera" of cases against children. This Law provides for the trial of any child under the age of fourteen years, charged with any offence triable in a Resident Magistrate's Court or a Court of Petty Sessions, to be heard in camera as the Resident Magistrate or presiding Justice may think fit to order.

Law 28 of 1927.—A Law to authorise the raising of a loan for the relaying of certain portions of the track of the Jamaica Government Railway. Under this Law the Governor is authorised to raise by the issue of a loan either at one time or by instalments a sum of £200,000, and such further sum as may be necessary for the relaying of the Railway track.

Law 30 of 1927.—A Law to regulate the Milk River Bath in the parish of Clarendon. This Law repeals Laws which placed the management of the Milk River Bath under the Parochial Board for the parish of Clarendon and gives the Governor power to appoint in lieu thereof a Board of Management which shall consist of the Custos for the time being of the parish of Clarendon, the Member for the time being of the Legislative Council for the said parish, the Superintending Medical Officer for Jamaica, the Director of Public Works and three other Members appointed annually by the Governor on the nomination of the Parochial Board for the parish of Clarendon: the Custos being ex-officio Chairman of the Board. The Law also vests all property of the Bath in the Colonial Secretary for the use and benefit of the inhabitants of Jamaica. Power is also given to the Board with the approval of the Governor in Privy Council and subject to the consent of the Legislative Council, to lease the property or any part thereof.

Law 33 of 1927.—A Law to regulate afforestation. Under this Law it shall be lawful for the Governor in Privy Council from time to time as occasion may require to declare to be a Forest Reserve any land in the Island necessary to be utilised without acquisition or to be acquired for afforestation purposes.

Law 34 of 1927.—The Soap License Duty Law. This Law repeals the excise duty on soap and at the same time retains the necessary control over the manufacture of soap.

Law 35 of 1927.—The Match License Duty Law. This repeals the excise duty on matches and at the same time retains the necessary control over the manufacture of matches.

Law 36 of 1927.—The Dental Practitioners Law. This Law makes provision for the examination and registration of persons practising dentistry in this Island, and ensures that only persons properly qualified are permitted to practise dentistry.

Law 37 of 1927.—A Law further to amend the Motor Vehicle Law 1922 (Law 21 of 1922) and the Motor Vehicle Amendment Law 1927 (Law 9 of 1927). This Law makes provision for the making of regulations to control effectively the increased Motor Vehicle traffic and introduces a system of licensing that will ensure prompt payment of the duties required by the principal Law.

Law 38 of 1927.—A Law to regulate the sale of Spirits and the granting of Licenses in connection therewith. The principal alterations made by this Law are:—

- (1) The establishment of a Licensing Authority for each parish.
- (2) More stringent conditions with regard to Taverns and Hotels.
- (3) The creation of a Town off License and a Special Hotel License.
- (4) Alteration of some of the hours of opening and closing.
- (5) The abolition of the system of the renewal of a license as was contained in the old Laws.

Law 39 of 1927.—A Law to consolidate and amend the Resident Magis-

trates Law. The chief alteration in this Law is the increased jurisdiction given to Resident Magistrates in Common Law actions, Equity and Probate and Administration.

VII.—EDUCATION.

ELEMENTARY.

124. Attendances at the Public Elementary Schools during the past year again show a considerable advance on those of previous years, the average number on the registers being 125,739 for 1927 as compared with 122,337 in 1926 and the average attendance 76,990 as compared with 75,063 in 1926.

125. Attention to school garden work, Friday sessions and supervision by Managers, three prominent features of the new system, continued to show improvement..

Courses of instruction in school garden work and manual training were still in suspension owing to the need for economy.

126. The sum of £2,161 was disbursed during the year in Building Grants for schools and teachers' dwellings, but this as usual enabled only the most urgent cases to be helped.

127. The total departmental expenditure continued to rise and for the year was £166,567 as compared with £159,525 in 1926.

SECONDARY.

128. The endowed Secondary Schools, which are under the care of the Jamaica Schools Commission and some unendowed schools, were inspected and in all cases the reports recommended the continuance of the grants-in-aid. The number of Aided Secondary Schools was 17 an increase of one. The results of the Public Examinations continued to compare favourably with those of similar schools elsewhere.

129. Jamaica was again constituted a centre for holding several examinations of the University of London, and candidates were successful in passing the Matriculation, which for the first time was the examination for the Jamaica Scholarship (Girls), the intermediate examinations in Arts and Science and the final in Arts. For the Matriculation examination the number of candidates increased from 21 to 26 and the number of passes from 6 to 16, the number of candidates for intermediate was again 4 and the number of passes increased from 1 to 2, whilst the number who sat for the final B.A. increased from one, in a supplementary subject, to 5 of whom 2 obtained honours and 2 a pass.

TECHNICAL.

130. The Government Technical and Continuation School in Kingston continued to do good work.

131. The Manual Training classes attached to Government Schools in country towns were in most cases in operation during the year and doing some useful work.

132. The Continuation and Domestic Training School at Carron Hall, under the Presbyterian Church has made very satisfactory progress as also has a smaller but similar institution near Highgate under the Friends Mission.

INDUSTRIAL.

133. No new Industrial Schools or Homes were opened during the year, but those already in existence continued to do useful work in vocational training for boys and girls who would otherwise be uncared for.

VIII.—METEOROLOGICAL.

RAINFALL.

134. The mean rainfall for the four Divisions of the Island for the year 1927 was 72.45 inches, or 4.01 inches below the 50-year average. The shortage occurred in the first half of the year. The rainfall in the North-eastern Division was 3% below normal; in the Northern, West-central, and Southern Divisions, the shortage was 10%, 5%, and 5%, respectively. The total mean number of rainy days for the year was 125, as compared with 126 for the previous year. The total rainfall for Kingston amounted to only 25.73 inches, as compared with the 50-year average of 33.59 inches.

TEMPERATURE.

135. At Kingston the mean temperature for the twelve months was 78.3 degrees or 0.4 degrees below the 33-year normal; the maximum temperature for the year was 92.6 degrees in August, and the minimum 62.3 degrees in January.

HUMIDITY.

136. For the year the mean relative humidity was 83% for the 7 a.m., and 63% for the 3 p.m. observations, i.e., about normal.

WEATHER DISTURBANCES, &c.

137. There was no tropical disturbance reported in the Caribbean in July, August and September; but on October 17th a weather disturbance of minor intensity developed to the south-west of Cayman Islands, and proceeded on a track in a north-easterly direction, passing across eastern Cuba, and thence into the Atlantic Ocean. Heavy gales were felt in some districts on the northside of the Island at the same time, causing some damage to cultivation. On 28th October a depression, of minor intensity, occurred over the Island of St. Lucia, and moved in a north-westerly direction towards the west of Porto Rico.

138. "Northers" were experienced at Kingston in January and also at Morant Point and at Negril Point during the months of January and November.

139. Hail fell at Darliston on the 30th June and on the 21st and 30th July, also at Grange Hill on the 23rd June. On the 20th August, hail was reported to have fallen at Kempshot and on the 19th September, a hailstorm occurred at Wallingford.

EARTHQUAKES.

140. Shocks of earthquake of slight to moderate intensity were reported at different parts of the Island, in the months of February, March, June, July, August, September, October and November.

IX.—COMMUNICATIONS.

RAILWAY.

141. The Jamaica Government Railway (main and branch lines) is 210½ miles in length. It traverses the Island by two main lines:—

- (a) Kingston to Montego Bay—112¾ miles.
- (b) Spanish Town (11¾ miles from Kingston) to Port Antonio—63¼ miles.

There are branch lines as follows:—

- (1) From May Pen Junction (32½ miles from Kingston) to Frankfield—23 miles.
- (2) From Bog Walk (20½ miles from Kingston on the Port Antonio Line) to Ewarton—8½ miles.
- (3) From Linstead (3½ miles from Bog Walk on the Ewarton Branch Line), to New Works—3 miles.

No passenger trains are run over this branch.

142. The main lines run across the high mountains which form the back-bone of the Island, to the north coast; Port Antonio being north-east, and Montego Bay north-west, of Kingston. The Frankfield and Ewarton lines traverse rich agricultural districts near the centre of the Island. The gauge is 4' 8½". The maximum gradients are 1 in 30 and the maximum curves 5 chains. The highest point of the Railway is Greenvale on the Montego Bay Line, 1,680 feet above sea level. The highest point on the Port Antonio Line is between Richmond and Troja at 31 miles—900 feet.

143. The Revenue for the year ended 31st of December, 1927, was £387,430 and the expenditure £354,820. There is no depreciation fund, but provision is made in the Annual Estimates for renewals, depreciation and betterment. The total weight of goods carried during the year under review was 378,834 tons, as compared with 341,218 tons for the year 1926; the number of passengers carried in 1927 was 659,794, as compared with 620,328 in 1926.

144. The management of the Railway is assisted by an Advisory Board of ten members, consisting of the Director and nine others, chiefly local business men, who advise the Government on matters of policy.

SHIPPING.

145. The following statement shows the volume of Shipping during the past five years:—

1923 entered	1,323	Vessels of	2,011,500 tons.
1924 "	1,306	"	2,056,496 "
1925 "	1,412	"	2,207,618 "
1926 "	1,553	"	2,552,987 "
1927 "	1,754	"	3,001,232 "
1923 cleared	1,335	"	2,005,771 "
1924 "	1,299	"	2,054,100 "
1925 "	1,401	"	2,183,663 "
1926 "	1,550	"	2,553,138 "
1927 "	1,754	"	3,008,172 "

146. The following regular Steamship Lines serve the Colony:—

British Register.—The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., Leyland Line, Elders and Fyffes, Harrison Line, Pickford and Black, the Canadian Government Mercantile Marine, The Canadian Transport Co., The Shaw Savill & Albion Co., Ltd., James Nourse, Ltd., The Canadian Pacific R. R. Steamship Co., the Webster Steamship Line and the Jamaica Fruit & Shipping Co. (The two last named Companies are

registered in Jamaica.) Although Messrs. Elders and Fyffes is a British registered company, the firm is in fact controlled by the United Fruit Company, an American Corporation which owns the bulk of their capital.

U.S.A.—The United Fruit Co., Atlantic Fruit Co., The Colombian Steamship Co., Inc., the Alexander Shipping Co., the Di Giorgio Fruit Steamship Co., Inc., and the Lanassa Corporation.

Dutch.—The Royal Netherlands Steamship Co.

German.—The Horn Steamship Co., and the Hamburg Amerika Line.

Cuban.—The Empresa Naviera de Cuba Line.

147. No ships were built in Jamaica during the year.

ROADS.

148. The Island is intersected by a system of water-bound macadam roads. They are divided into two classes (a) Main Roads, of a total length of 2,277 miles, which are maintained out of the General Revenue of the Colony and (b) Parochial Roads, aggregating 4,366 miles of which 1,844 miles are suitable for light motor car traffic and 2,522 miles are cart or bridle roads. Class (b) is maintained by the Parochial Boards out of their own funds.

149. During 1927, the Main Roads were maintained at an average cost of £91 per mile, including expenditure on repairing flood damage. With few exceptions, these roads, were originally constructed of limestone without any proper foundation and are therefore suitable only for light wheeled traffic. This type of construction is inadequate to meet the ever-increasing requirements of motor traffic. Legislation prohibiting the importation and use without special permission of Motor Vehicles weighing more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons unladen has been enacted. The existing roads are gradually being improved so as to enable them to carry such motor traffic with safety. Up to the end of the year under review, about 51 miles of roads had been improved and tar sprayed.

CANALS.

150. There are no navigable canals in the Island.

IRRIGATION.

151. There is a system of canals which conveys water from the Rio Cobre to the plains of the parish of St. Catherine for irrigation purposes. The main canal carries 18,000 cubic yards of water per hour and is approximately 6 miles long; subsidiary channels with a total length of 42 miles, distribute the water over an area of 50,000 acres, of which some 20,000 acres are now under irrigation.

152. In the parish of Clarendon a small irrigation scheme has been constructed. Water is pumped from the Cockpit River to a height of 70 feet and discharged into channels which convey it by gravity to several Sugar Estates. The main channel carries 5,000 cubic yards of water per hour, but is capable of being extended to carry double that volume.

POSTAL, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

153. The Government Postal Telegraph system was inaugurated in 1879, with a complement of 47 offices. At the close of the calendar year 1927, there were 1,015 miles of telegraph and telephone lines, with 60 Telegraph and 84 Telephone Offices. Only one new Telephone Office was opened during the year.

154. The charge for telegrams is 9d. for the first twelve words and a half-penny for each additional word. Press telegrams are granted a special rate of approximately half the above charges. An all-night and holiday telegraph service is provided on payment of graduated fees.

155. The Railway Telegraph System, in connection with which there are 39 offices, assists in placing telegraphic communication within the reach of all. These offices work in collaboration with the Postal Telegraph System, but are controlled by the Management of the Railway.

156. The number of messages transmitted in 1926 numbered 34,593 and the receipts totalled £18,007. In 1927, 362,234 telegrams were despatched and the revenue amounted to £19,589.

157. There are two Wireless Telegraph Stations in the Island. One is situated at Christiana and was established by the Admiralty during the Great War. This station does not now accept traffic. The other station is at Kingston and is operated by the Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd., under Government License. This station communicates with Merchant Shipping on a 600-metre wave. This Company was granted a license to erect a modern Wireless Station at Stony Hill, nine miles from Kingston for the purpose of handling commercial traffic. This station was completed during the year. The Kingston station will be re-modelled and used for ship to shore work. Numerous wireless receiving sets have been established (under Government License) throughout the Island by persons desirous of receiving the programmes broadcast by American and other Broadcasting Stations. No Broadcasting Station exists in the Island.

158. Telegraphic communication with all parts of the world is furnished by two Cable Companies, viz.: the Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd., and the West India and Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd.

159. The cable of the former Company runs from Jamaica through Turks Island to Bermuda and thence to Halifax, N.S., at which point connection is made with all the important Trans-Atlantic Lines eastward and with the Canadian Pacific Railroad, Commercial Cable Companies, and Western Union Lines inland and westward. This Company also connects at Halifax, N.S., with the Imperial route to Great Britain and Australia, and with the Marconi Company's Trans-Atlantic Service. The Pacific Cable Board has established communication with all the British West Indian Islands, and West Indian traffic entrusted to the Direct West Indian Cable Company is now handed over to the "P.C.B." at the latter's Turks Island Office.

160. The West India and Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd., maintains communication with Foreign Countries by means of cables to Cuba, where they transfer their cablegrams to their connecting companies, who have cables connecting with different parts of the United States of America. In addition, this Company has a network of cables touching at practically every West Indian Island.

AERIAL SERVICES.

161. No Aerial Service has so far been established in connection with this Colony.

X.—PUBLIC WORKS.

162. An extensive programme of Road Construction was commenced during the year, with the object of improving access to fertile areas and of improving through traffic.

A Scheme for the general improvement of Hospitals was commenced, and one important parish Hospital has been replaced by a new and up to date structure.

The provision of Government Elementary Schools, in all parts of the Island, was steadily pushed on, and a number of buildings completed.

163. The Hermitage Dam which was being built for the Corporation of Kingston and St. Andrew, for the purpose of conserving the surplus water of the Wag Water River, was completed in May and has been put into use.

164. The reconstruction, in Asphalt, of the Kingston Streets, commenced in 1925, was resumed in the early part of the year, and a considerable mileage was completed.

XI.—OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS.

165. A list of Official Publications relating to Jamaica, which are likely to be of interest, is given below:—

	Price.	Where obtainable.
	s. d.	
Handbook of Jamaica (published annually)	8 0	The Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4 Millbank, Westminster, London, W.C.
Jamaica in 1924 ..	2 0	H. Sotheran & Co., Strand, London, S.W. 1
Annual Report of the Collector General of Internal Revenue, Customs and Excise	1 0	Superintendent, Government Printing Office, Kingston, Jamaica.
Blue Book of Jamaica (published annually)	10 0	ditto
Annual Report of the Director of Agriculture	1 0	ditto
The Rainfall of Jamaica, 1870-1919	2 6	ditto
Notes on the Geography of Jamaica, 1913, by Maxwell Hall	1 0	ditto
Education Code, 1921	1 0	ditto
The Principal Agricultural Pests of Jamaica, by C. C. Gowdey, B.Sc., F.E.S., F.Z.S. (1923)	2 0	ditto
Catalogus Insectorum Jamaicensis, by C. C. Gowdey, B.Sc., F.E.S., F.Z.S., parts 1-3 (1928)	3 0	ditto
Proceedings of the Ninth West India Agricultural Conference (1925)	2 6	ditto
Historic Jamaica (1915)	2 6	The West India Committee, London.
Colonial Secretariat, Jamaica, 30th August, 1928.		D. H. HALL, Acting Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS.

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. These Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the Subscription price of 40s. per annum. Individual Reports may also be purchased and standing orders placed for their annual supply.

BAHAMAS.
BARBADOS.
BASUTOLAND.
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.
BERMUDA.
BRITISH GUIANA.
BRITISH HONDURAS.
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.
BRUNEI, STATE OF.
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA).
CEYLON.
COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT.
CYPRUS.
FALKLAND ISLANDS.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES.
FIJI.
GAMBIA.
GIBRALTAR.
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS.
GOLD COAST.
GRENADA.
HONG KONG.

JAMAICA.
KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE.
LEEWARD ISLANDS.
MAURITIUS.
NEW HEBRIDES.
NIGERIA.
NORTHERN RHODESIA.
NYASALAND.
ST. HELENA.
ST. LUCIA.
ST. VINCENT.
SEYCHELLES.
SIE RA LEONE.
SOMALILAND.
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.
SWAZILAND.
TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO.
TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS.
UGANDA.
UNFEDERATED MALAY STATES UNDER BRITISH PROTECTION.
W 'I-HAI-WEI.
Z. NZIBAR PROTECTORATE.

MANDATED TERRITORIES.

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations.

BRITISH CAMEROONS.
BRITISH TOGOLAND.

PALESTINE AND TRANS-JORDAN.
TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.

IRAQ.

For further particulars as to the latest reports and prices apply to any of the

SALE OFFICES OF H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates, and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

THE EMPIRE'S AGRICULTURE

An historical event of importance in the development of the Empire's Agriculture took place towards the close of 1927. The foundations were, it is believed, then laid for the ultimate creation of a real and effective British agricultural commonwealth. The occasion was the Imperial Agricultural Research Conference held in Great Britain in October and November, 1927, which was attended by delegates of high standing from all countries in the Empire.

"The Report of the Imperial Agricultural Research Conference," just issued, contains a full account of the events leading up to the Conference, the recommendations (both in full and in summary form) there made and the views expressed by the highest authorities on agriculture in all quarters of the Empire. The recommendations deal with the following subjects:—The establishment of an Imperial chain of Agricultural Research Stations. The establishment of Imperial clearing houses of information. The recruitment, training and interchange of scientific workers in agriculture for the whole Empire. The action immediately necessary to secure co-operative work in such specialist subjects as Veterinary Science, Animal Nutrition and Genetics, Dairying, Soils and Fertilisers, Plant Breeding and Pathology, Fruit Growing, Entomology, Preservation and Transport, and Agricultural Economics.

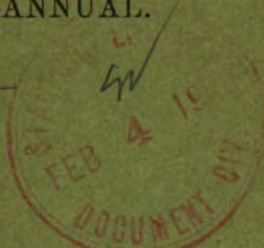
The Report of 250 pages is issued at the specially low price of 1s. (with postage 1s. 5d.), in order that it may be within easy reach of all those affected.

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Or through any bookseller.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1414.



HONG KONG

REPORT FOR 1927.

*(For Report for 1925 see No. 1324 (Price 1s. 6d.) and for
Report for 1926 see No. 1356 (Price 1s. 3d.).)*



PRINTED IN HONG KONG

LONDON:

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15, Donegall Square West, Belfast;
or through any Bookseller

1928

58-1414.

Price 1s. 3d. Net.

EMPIRE DEVELOPMENT

EMPIRE MARKETING BOARD PUBLICATIONS.

Note on the work of the Board and Statement
of Research Grants approved by the Secretary
of State from July, 1926 to May, 1927.

Cmd. 2898. 3d. (3½d.).

Agricultural Economics in the Empire.

(E.M.B. 1.) 6d. (7d.).

Tropical Agricultural Research in the Empire,
with special reference to Cacao, Sugar Cane,
Cotton and Palms. (E.M.B. 2.) 1s. 6d. (1s. 9d.).

Agriculture in Trinidad. Report on Develop-
ment. (E.M.B. 3.) 3d. (3½d.).

Agriculture in British Guiana. Report on
Development. (E.M.B. 4.) 9d. (10d.).

Agriculture in Leeward and Windward Islands
and Barbados. Report on Development.
(E.M.B. 5.) 6d. (7d.).

Geophysical Surveying. Report of a Sub-
Committee of the Committee of Civil Research.
November, 1927. (E.M.B. 6.) 6d. (7d.).

The Chemistry of Wine Making. A Report on
Oenological Research. (E.M.B. 7.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 2d.).

Grass and Fodder Crop Conservation in Trans-
portable Form. (E.M.B. 8.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 2d.).

Empire Marketing Board May, 1927 to May,
1928. (E.M.B. 9.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 2d.).

IMPERIAL ECONOMIC COMMITTEE PUBLICATIONS.

The Imperial Economic Committee has issued a series
of publications on the problems connected with the
marketing and preparing for market of foodstuffs pro-
duced within the British Empire. The following six
volumes are now ready. General Questions, 9d. (10d.);
Meat, 9d. (10d.); Fruit, 4s. 6d. (4s. 10d.); Dairy
Produce, 1s. (1s. 3d.); Fish, 6d. (8d.); Poultry, Eggs,
Honey, 1s. (1s. 2d.).

The Eighth Report of the Committee, "The Functions
and Work of the Imperial Economic Committee," 6d.
(7d.). The relationship between the Committee and the
Empire Marketing Board is explained in this Report.

All Prices are net. Those in brackets include postage.

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REPORT FOR 1927.

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Report for 1926 see No. 1356 (Price 1s. 3d.).)*



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History and Geography.

The Colony of Hong Kong is situated off the south-eastern coast of China between latitude $22^{\circ} 9'$ and $22^{\circ} 17' N.$ and longitude $114^{\circ} 5'$ and $114^{\circ} 18' E.$ The island is about 11 miles long and 2 to 5 miles in breadth, its circumference being about 27 miles and its area $28\frac{1}{2}$ square miles. It consists of an irregular ridge of lofty hills rising to a height of nearly 2,000 feet above sea level, stretching nearly east and west, with few valleys of any extent and little ground available for cultivation.

The island, then desolate and sparsely inhabited by fishermen, was ceded to Great Britain in January, 1841, the cession being confirmed by the Treaty of Nankin in August, 1842, and the charter bears the date of 5th April, 1843. All that part of Kowloon peninsula lying South of Kowloon Fort to the northernmost point of Stonecutter's Island together with that island was ceded to Great Britain under the Convention signed at Peking in October, 1860, and under the Convention signed at Peking in June, 1898, the area known as the New Territories including Mirs Bay and Deep Bay was leased to Great Britain by the Government of China for 99 years. The area of the New Territories and Islands is about 345 square miles.

Trade gradually developed as China became accustomed to foreign intercourse and it increased greatly owing to the opening of the Suez Canal. It now stands at about 200 million pounds sterling per annum.

Large local banking, dock, steamboat, and insurance companies were established between 1865 and 1872, and their numbers are being continually added to.

The Colony is the centre of an incessant flow of Chinese emigration and immigration (*see* XIII Miscellaneous).

The estimated population is as follows:—

Non-Chinese	16,500
Chinese	961,400
	<hr/>
TOTAL	977,900
	<hr/> <hr/>

Of the Non-Chinese population it was estimated at the census of 1921 that the number of British nationals of European origin was about 4,300. There has probably been a slight increase in this number in the intervening period.

The rainfall for 1926 was 100.78 inches, and for 1927, 107.86 inches. In 1926 the mean temperature was 71° 6' and in 1927, 71° 4', the mean minimum temperature during the latter year ranging from 78° 7' in June to 55° 2' in February and the mean maximum temperature from 87° 5' in August to 62° 2' in February. Typhoons are prevalent during the months July to October.

The currency of Hong Kong consists of the following coins (vide Order in Council, 2nd February, 1895):—

1. The silver dollar of Mexico.
2. British dollar.
3. The Hong Kong dollar, half-dollar, and 20 cent, 10 cent, and 5 cent pieces, issued from the Hong Kong Mint. (1866-68).
4. Half-dollars, 20, 10, and 5 cent pieces, imported from England, and coined at the Royal Mint and Birmingham Mint.
5. Copper coins representing one-hundredth part of the dollar (called one cent), and one-thousandth part of the dollar (mil or cash), imported from England.

Local weights and measures are the following:—

- 1 tael = 1.1 $\frac{1}{3}$ oz.;
- 1 picul = 133.1/3rd lbs. (avoirdupois)
- 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ catties = 1 imperial gallon;

I.—General.

The year 1927 was one of slow but steady recovery in the financial and commercial position of the Colony, though the volume of business still remained below the level of 1925. In introducing the Budget in September His Excellency the Governor stated that careful scrutiny of expenditure was still absolutely necessary, and that in financial matters the "Coat must be cut according to the cloth". His Excellency took this opportunity to review the developments of the Colony during the past 30 years, and stated that "the achievement of Hong Kong in financing its amazing developments during the past 30 years by means of its annual revenue and without recourse to borrowing is unequalled in any part of the British Empire". In order to assist future development, His Excellency announced the forthcoming issue of a public works loan at 6% at par.

2. One of the most striking events of the year was the arrival of the units of the Shanghai Defence Force, and of the naval reinforcements, especially the First Cruiser Squadron. Many of these additional forces were stationed in Hong Kong. The local accommodation was taxed to the uttermost. A number of buildings had to be commandeered for billeting and for hospitals. Among these buildings were the Peninsula Hotel, King's College and the Diocesan Boys School. In addition a large hutment camp was erected on the reclamation at Shamshuipo. Strenuous efforts, partly under the auspices of the Y.M.C.A., and partly by individuals, were made to provide for the recreation and entertainment of the troops. A number of canteens was opened, and concert parties arranged. Special recognition should be accorded to the hard work done by the voluntary helpers during the trying weather of the summer months.

3. Piracies during the year were a source of continual trouble. The execution of 8 pirates who had been captured on the s.s. "Sunning" at the end of 1926, appeared to have little deterrent effect on the Bias Bay pirates. After the piracy of the British steamer "Hop Sang", at the end of March, a naval raid was conducted on the pirate stronghold in Bias Bay. Two villages where pirates were known to live were destroyed, and the whole operations were carried out without loss of life, either to the inhabitants or to the raiding parties. These operations caused a lull in piracies for a period of four months, when the piracies of the Norwegian steamer "Solviken", and of the British steamer "Yat Shing", led to a further naval raid on Bias Bay. Simultaneously the British steamer "Kochow" was pirated on the West River, and naval operations were carried out at the town of Tai Ping-hui, where pirates were known to live. Since that date there has been a marked diminution in piratical attacks on British vessels. However, in November the Chinese steamer "Irene" was intercepted in Bias Bay, when in the possession of pirates, by the British Submarine L.4. The vessel was only brought to after a shot had been fired into its engine room, and although a few persons some of who were presumed to be pirates lost their lives the passengers and crew were almost all saved. Seven men were brought to trial in connection with this piracy and executed. New piracy regulations, designed to abolish the system of locked grilles, are under consideration.

4. The uncertain situation in Canton caused anxiety in the Colony early in the year. For a time there was some possibility of a recurrence of the strike and boycott of 1925, but by the proscription of the Seamen's Union and by the prevention of seditious meetings this danger was averted. A more settled Government in Canton led to a gradual improvement in its relations with this Colony. There was however a continual influx of refugees and other persons into the Colony, and the disbanding in Canton of the Hong Kong strikers caused many bad characters to make their way to Hong Kong. A series of armed robberies occurred during the autumn, culminating in December in a street battle between the police and a gang of armed robbers, in which two Chinese constables were shot and three robbers either killed or wounded.

5. On August 20th, the Colony was visited by a severe typhoon, which lasted for the unusually long period of 12 hours. Much damage was caused on shore, especially in the Peak district, where one block of flats collapsed and a number of flats and houses were severely damaged. The P. & O. steamer "Rawalpindi" dragged her moorings, and for a time was in danger of being dashed on the Praya Wall. This catastrophe was happily averted.

6. The honours conferred on residents of Hong Kong by H.M. the King during the year included the appointment of Sir Joseph Kemp as Knight Bachelor and of Mr. W. T. Southorn and Dr. R. H. Kotewall as Companions of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. Among the visitors to the Colony during the year mention should be made of the Bishop of London, who was present at the New Year and whose addresses were received with much enthusiasm by the local religious community. In September the two American aviators Messrs. Brock and Schee and their aeroplane "Pride of Detroit" visited Hong Kong and made a short stay on their flight round the world.

II.—Finance.

The total revenue of the year amounted to \$21,344,536 which sum exceeded the estimate by \$337,139, and the revenue for 1926 by \$212,954. This increase was chiefly under the headings Licences and Internal Revenue and it more than set off the deficit in stamp and liquor duties and in the revenue from land sales. A noteworthy item was the increase of \$107,184 in the passenger service (foreign line) of the Kowloon-Canton Railway due to the reopening of through traffic with Canton. This increase more than counterbalances the decrease in passenger receipts on the home line. Two unusual items contributed to the excess of revenue over expenditure. The first was the transfer of accumulated interest to the amount of \$146,450 on the money deposited in London towards the cost of the Singapore base. The second was the transfer to revenue of the surplus of the local War Loan Sinking Fund amounting to \$158,134 following on the repayment of the loan at the end of the year.

2. The expenditure for the year amounted to \$20,845,065 which was less than estimated by \$1,469,637 and less than expenditure in 1926 by \$2,679,651. The principal item on which savings were effected was Public Works Extraordinary. Owing to the general policy of retrenchment and to lapsing salaries in the Public Works Department it was found possible to effect a saving under these two headings, of over \$900,000. A very substantial saving was effected by the repayment of the Local War Loan and the consequent saving of interest and Sinking Fund charges.

3. The following is a statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years:—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
1923	\$24,783,673	\$21,571,905
1924	24,209,640	26,726,428
1925	23,244,365	28,266,817
1926	21,131,582	23,524,716
1927	21,344,536	20,845,065

4. *Public Debt.*—The local 6% War Loan of \$3,000,000, due for repayment in November, 1928, was fully repaid during the year and the surplus in the Sinking Fund of \$158,134 was transferred to revenue. In November the new 6% Public Works Loan at par was issued. \$3,000,000 worth of bonds were allotted, but the applications actually received from the public amounted to nearly four times that sum. The inscribed Stock Loans of 1893 and 1906 due for repayment in 1943 amounted to £1,485,773 and the Sinking Fund at the end of the year was £587,205.

5. *The Trade Loan.*—This loan which was issued in 1926 to assist local merchants and others during the exceptional difficulties following on the strike and boycott was allocated to the extent of \$15,624,588 representing a total of 278 loans. All loans were limited to a period of two years and although many of them were due for repayment at the end of last year it was considered that the financial situation had not sufficiently improved to justify their being called in. The position on 31st December, 1927 was that 164 loans, representing a total of \$8,102,895, or rather more than half the total, were outstanding.

III.—Production.

FORESTRY, AGRICULTURE AND BOTANY.

Formation of Pine Tree plantations.—Increased areas were dealt with during the year. *Pinus Massoniana* sowings *in situ* amounted to 197,476. Suitable areas were broadcasted with 995 pounds of *Pinus Massoniana* and 129 pounds of *Leucaena glauca*, the latter being tried for the first time. Other experimental sowings were made with *Pinus insularis*, *Cunninghamia sinensis*, *Acacia pennata* and *Acacia confusa*.

Insect Pests.—Pine Tree Caterpillars (*Eutricha punctata*) appeared in the pine plantations in many parts of the Colony. June was a particularly bad month, weather conditions being ideal for the pests. The total amount collected and destroyed in all parts of the Colony was 14,637 pounds.

Protection from Fire.—Fires were again numerous but fortunately no serious damage was done to Government plantations. Little or no assistance in dealing with fires was given by village people living within short distances of the burnt areas. The usual clearing of fire barriers was carried out.

Agriculture.—A general exhibit of foreign vegetables was staged at the first New Territories Agricultural Show which was held at Sheung Shui on November 7th and 8th.

More interest is now displayed in the cultivation of both foreign and native vegetables for local consumption, this is chiefly due to increased motor transport and the communication between the Hong Kong markets and the New Territories villages, which was established during the labour troubles and consequent shortage of fresh vegetables during 1925.

Inspection of Nursery Stock.—Eleven consignments of bulbs of *Narcissus Tazetta* were inspected during the year, of these four consignments totalling 57,106 bulbs were exported to the United States of America and Honolulu; seven consignments totalling 177,810 bulbs were exported to Britain and British Colonies.

Small consignments of fruits, dried legumes and vegetables were inspected before being exported to the Philippine Islands by local firms.

Seed Collection.—Seeds of the following were collected for local use and for the purpose of exchange:—*Casuarina equisetifolia*, *Cunninghamia sinensis*, *Glyptostrobus heterophyllus*, *Leucaena glauca*, *Bauhinia variegata*, *Cassia fistula*, *Tristania conferta*, *Sterculia lanceolata*, *Ficus retusa*, *Callistemon lanceolata*, *Garcinia oblongifolia*, *Melia Azedarach*, *Callistemon rigidus*, *Cinnamomum Camphora*, *Poinciana regia*, *Aleurites Fordii*, *Aleurites montana*, *Aleurites triloba*, *Acacia pennata* and *Pinus Massoniana*.

FISHERIES.

A considerable proportion of the boat population of Hong Kong supports itself by deep-sea fishing, in which pursuit a large number of junks are engaged. The villages of Aberdeen, Stanley, Shaukiwan, and also many in the New Territories, are largely dependent upon this industry for their prosperity. Fresh water fish is imported from Canton and the West River. There are oyster beds of considerable value in Deep Bay.

MINING.

The mineral resources of the Colony are small and little mining was done in 1927.

MANUFACTURES.

Sugar.—The higher prices of Raw and Refined that prevailed towards the close of 1926 were not maintained. A break commenced early in 1927 and prices continued to fall practically throughout the year closing at the end of December about the lowest. The reason for this market weakness was principally disappointing consumption both in United States of America and United Kingdom and invisible supplies of sugars in excess of expectations while the reduction in Cuban output to 4,000,000 tons against 4,500,000 tons for 1926 was offset by a European Beet Crop of 8,100,000 tons for 1927-28 against 6,860,000 tons for 1926-27.

Rope Making.—The demand for Manila cordage for 1927 was restricted owing to the depression in Shipping and the political trouble in China.

SHIPBUILDING.

Six ocean-going vessels were built in 1927, the largest being of 562 gross tons; one river vessel of 1,068 gross tons and some twenty launches, motor boats and lighters were also built.

IV.—Trade and Economics.

Trade suffered throughout the year from the disturbed condition of China but the establishment in Canton of a more settled Government and the restoration of friendly relations between Canton and Hong Kong brought about a marked improvement at the close of 1927 warranting confidence in the speedy disappearance of the effects of the strike and boycott of 1925.

The following figures, taken from returns for 1924 (the last available), show the principal countries with which trade is carried on:—

	<i>Imported from</i>	<i>Exported to</i>
	£	£
United Kingdom	9,450,000	744,000
Germany	1,835,000	132,000
Belgium	696,000	19,000
Holland	326,000	107,000
France	319,000	79,000
Italy	259,000	6,000
Sweden	173,000	2,000
Other European Countries	189,000	16,000
United States of America	5,915,000	2,489,000
Cuba, Central & S. America ...	169,000	933,000
Japan, Korea & Formosa	9,127,000	3,523,000
Australia	1,042,000	428,000
Canada	733,000	410,000
New Zealand	54,000	62,000
Foreign Countries Miscellaneous	195,000	38,000
	<hr/> £30,482,000	<hr/> £8,988,000

The Scale of Hong Kong's trade with neighbouring countries is indicated by the following figures, also taken from the statistics for 1924:—

	<i>Imported from</i>	<i>Exported to</i>
	£	£
India	1,998,000	805,000
Ceylon	21,000	133,000
Burmah	1,051,000	224,000
Straits Settlements & F.M.S. .	1,692,000	2,893,000
British North Borneo	277,000	129,000
China	*25,974,000	39,738,000
Netherlands East Indies	9,457,000	1,054,000
French Indo-China	10,994,000	5,135,000
Siam	6,262,000	2,530,000
Philippine Islands	654,000	1,719,000
Total	<hr/> 58,380,000	<hr/> 54,360,000

Hong Kong's own consumption and production of commodities is comparatively small; one of its main functions is to act as an entrepot and clearing house for the products of South China and for the world's manufactured goods passing into South China.

*This figure is obtained from the Chinese Maritime Customs Returns.

However, owing to the fact that no duties are levied upon commodities, except liquors and tobacco, whereas China levies import and export duties upon all commodities, the tendency has been for a number of manufacturing processes to be established in the Colony, *e.g.*, sugar and tin refining, cement making and ginger preserving; there are also several factories weaving cotton manufactured goods, and hundreds of native workshops manufacturing rattan ware and similar products.

Much of the voluminous trade with neighbouring countries comprises purely Chinese commodities and is carried on by Chinese firms in Hong Kong with branches elsewhere. Trade with Europe, the Americas and Australasia is principally in the hands of British and foreign import and export firms who do business with the Chinese mercantile community established in Hong Kong, purchasing from them the products of China which have been assembled from the interior, and selling manufactured goods which pass on from wholesale to retail dealers and so to the small shopkeepers in the interior of China. The lack of modern means of communication in China necessarily makes the process slow and difficult.

The Chinese written language is a great hindrance to direct dealings between Chinese traders and merchants and manufacturers in foreign countries; another obstacle is lack of confidence by shippers overseas—the product of many regrettable experiences. The substantial British and foreign firms in Hong Kong, with their branches in the Treaty Ports of China, serve a definitely useful purpose in acting as intermediaries between Chinese and overseas traders. Owing to the hindrances to commerce resulting from the language difficulty and the lack of education of the proprietors of native manufacturing it would be impossible for firms abroad to do business direct. As a rule letters would not be answered, and, even if contact were established, there would be no means of ensuring deliveries in accordance with sample. It is in this matter, especially, that the foreign exporters protect the interests of buyers abroad. Enquiries as to the South China market should be addressed to the General Chamber of Commerce, Hong Kong.

V.—Communications.

SHIPPING.

The total Shipping entering and clearing Ports in the Colony during the year 1927 amounted to 298,707 vessels of 44,127,161 tons which, compared with the figures for 1926, shows a decrease of 261,566 vessels entered and cleared and an increase of 330,725 tons.

Of the above 51,289 vessels of 36,834,014 tons were engaged in Foreign Trade as compared with 30,231 vessels of 28,371,104 tons in 1926.

There was an increase in British Ocean-going shipping of 460 ships of 403,023 tons entered and cleared.

Foreign Ocean-going vessels show an increase of 2,209 ships entered and cleared giving an increase of 3,982,445 tons.

These figures are affected by the stoppage due to vessels of the China Navigation Co. being laid up from 1st July 1927 to 7th September 1927.

British River Steamers show an increase of 3,273 ships and an increase of 1,826,653 tons.

Foreign River Steamers show an increase of 935 ships and an increase of 453,420 tons.

In steamships not exceeding 60 tons employed in Foreign Trade there is an increase of 5,064 ships entered and cleared giving an increase in tonnage of 146,044 tons.

Junks in Foreign Trade show an increase of 9,027 vessels entered and cleared giving an increase of 1,651,325 tons.

In the Local Trade a decrease is shown in the number and tonnage of steam launches due to the extension of the Harbour limits, which now include places for which statistics were formerly required.

A comparison between the years 1926 and 1927 is given in the following table:—

Class of Vessels	1926.		1927.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
British Ocean-going,	3,401	9,257,417	3,861	9,660,440	460	403,023	..	...
Foreign Ocean-going,	4,468	12,057,279	6,767	16,039,724	2,299	3,982,445	...	...
British River Steamers,...	4,276	5,473,429	7,549	7,300,082	3,273	1,826,653	...	...
Foreign River Steamers,...	230	107,735	1,165	561,155	935	453,420	...	...
Steamships under 60 tons Foreign Trade...	2,829	87,330	7,893	233,374	5,064	146,044	...	...
Junks, Foreign Trade,	15,027	1,387,914	24,054	3,039,239	9,027	1,651,325	...	...
Total, Foreign Trade,	30,231	28,371,104	51,289	36,834,014	21,058	8,462,910	...	...
Steam Launches, Local Trade	499,824	13,950,141	219,555	5,771,970	..	...	280,869	3,178,174
Junks, Local Trade,	30,218	1,475,188	27,863	1,521,177	...	45,389	2,355	...
Grand Total	560,273	43,796,436	298,707	44,127,161	21,058	8,508,899	282,624	3,178,174
Net,						330,725	261,566	

* Including 16,294 Conservancy and Lust Boats of 736,688 tons.

† " 15,358 " " " " of 993,280 "

In Local Trade (*i.e.* between places within the waters of the Colony) there is a decrease in entrances and clearances of steam launches of 280,269 which gives a decrease in tonnage of 8,178,174 tons.

Junks in Local Trade show a decrease of 2,355 vessels entered and cleared and an increase of 45,989 tons.

Of vessels of European construction, 5,316 ocean-going, 4,358 river steamers and 3,936 steamships not exceeding 60 tons entered during the year, giving a daily average of 37.3 ships as compared with 20.8 ships in 1926 and 28.9 ships in 1925.

Ocean-going steamers entered as follows:—

Flag.	Steamers.		No. of times entered.		Total Tonnage.	
	1926.	1927.	1926.	1927.	1926.	1927.
British,	339	346	1,686	5,702	4,597,357	8,466,960
Japanese,	207	264	755	1,109	2,236,359	2,927,207
U.S.A.,	69	79	236	245	1,510,383	1,495,775
Chinese,	61	81	606	1,315	245,697	847,073
German,	34	43	90	151	373,318	487,160
Danish,	14	11	23	48	78,025	153,341
Dutch,	40	41	232	251	785,696	849,766
French,	31	32	108	246	445,567	629,144
Italian,	9	6	27	26	127,870	141,566
Panaman,	1	—	1	—	9,953	—
Norwegian,	47	61	111	472	152,641	657,005
Portuguese,	5	5	33	73	23,856	15,526
Russian,	1	—	1	—	241	—
Swedish,	7	9	12	30	46,180	103,182
Spanish,	3	—	8	—	19,236	—
Belgian,	1	—	1	—	3,181	—
Mexican,	—	1	—	1	—	1,183
Total.	869	997	3,930	9,669	10,619,560	16,774,788

* (River Steamers included.)

HONG KONG SHIPPING STATISTICS.

Year	Ships engaged in foreign trade cleared and entered.			Total shipping entered and cleared.	
	Number	Total Tonnage	Percentage of British Tonnage	British Tonnage	Total Tonnage
1897	9,944	12,124,599	67		
1898	11,058	13,252,733	66		
1899	10,905	13,437,147	65		
1900	10,940	14,022,167	65		
1901	10,807	14,599,141	53		
1902	12,461	16,275,998	59	9,571,787	21,333,566
1903	14,489	19,018,411	59	11,250,296	23,853,384
1904	16,976	19,333,096	70	13,406,094	24,648,258
1905	18,103	19,778,176	67		34,185,091
1906	16,397	19,833,666	61		32,747,268
1907	18,096	20,381,421	51.5	11,846,533	36,028,310
1908	19,604	20,104,795	58.6	14,903,106	34,615,241
1909	18,714	20,171,755	56.7	11,437,678	34,830,845
1910	17,557	20,966,504	57.8	12,112,019	36,534,361
1911	19,644	20,490,520	57.1	11,706,731	36,179,152
1912	21,010	21,614,995	56.1	11,977,714	36,735,149
1913	21,867	22,939,134	55.4	12,528,168	37,742,982
1914	23,740	22,069,879	56.9	12,312,404	36,756,951
1915	23,051	19,561,318	58.1	11,381,439	33,884,919
1916	23,303	19,106,690	50.3	10,995,794	36,381,457
1917	21,959	17,329,841	52.9	9,167,595	33,827,325
1918	19,997	13,982,966	51.9	7,072,021	29,518,189
1919	21,275	18,474,996	54.6	10,095,805	35,615,169
1920	21,498	21,576,139	53.8	11,608,069	40,122,527
1921	24,697	24,360,880	52.4	12,766,492	43,420,970
1922	24,272	26,635,467	50.3	13,420,118	46,566,764
1923	25,347	32,382,530	50.2	16,920,491	53,402,239
1924	57,765	38,770,499	47.4	18,369,413	56,731,077
1925	40,705	31,941,703	48.5	15,321,935	49,520,523
1926	15,204	26,983,190	54.2	14,730,846	43,796,436
1927	27,235	33,794,775	50.2	16,960,522	44,127,161

KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY.

1. The principal item of interest was the introduction in June of an arrangement entered into with the Administration of the Chinese Section, whereby British Section engines hauled the two express trains daily each way for the whole distance between Kowloon and Canton, 111 miles of which 89 are through Chinese Territory.

2. This arrangement proved very satisfactory to both Sections of the Railway as well as to the travelling public. Strict attention was paid to punctuality, comfort and the safety of the trains and passengers through the disturbed areas traversed by the line in Chinese Territory, with very gratifying results.

3. General revenues showed a distinct and steady increase from July onwards, and in November reached nearly \$75,000, the highest monthly figure by far since February 1922 during the period of the Seamen's Strike.

4. Working expenses exceeded revenues by the narrow margin of \$2,344.56, a very striking improvement on the working of previous years.

5. Liabilities under Capital increased by \$27,599.96, as against \$237,993.40 in 1926 making a total of \$20,540,037.40, and the deficit increased by \$483,159.32 as against \$544,931.93 in 1926. The accumulated deficit stood at \$6,510,538.95 on December 31st.

6. The chief addition chargeable to Capital account, involving \$24,739.46 was in connection with the building of new offices for the Chief Mechanical Engineer, at the locomotive yard at Hung Hom.

7. The Improvements at Taipo Market Station, estimated to cost \$25,000, were delayed and only \$2,860.50 spent on account.

8. New Works chargeable to Revenue were of a minor nature.

9. Typhoon and Rainstorm Damages amounted to \$4,343.81.

10. Permanent Way and Structures were maintained to the usual standard of efficiency, likewise all locomotives, motor coaches and rolling stock.

11. The Workshops were kept exceptionally busy, owing to extra work in connection with the train haulage to Canton, in addition to a heavy round of overhauls and painting.

12. Arrangements having been made with the Chinese Section for the British Section to recondition a large number of their goods stock, extra gangs were engaged at the Workshops and started on this work in October.

13. The transport of troops and equipment in connection with units of the Shanghai Defence Force in the early part of the year, added to that for an abnormal camping season later, resulted in exceptional use of rolling stock and increased revenue from military sources.

14. A heavier train service generally, was run during most of the year, the train mileage amounting to 224,764 or 79,843 miles more than in 1926, which however includes the trains running over Chinese Territory to Canton.

15. A new Railway Ordinance No. 28 of 1927 revising the Ordinance No. 21 of 1909, came into force in December.

INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS.

As the life of Hong Kong centres round the harbour its internal communications are largely by water. Regular ferry services cross the harbour in various directions, and in addition there is a large fleet of launches owned by commercial firms, and numerous motor-boats, sampans, etc. plying for hire between the shore and vessels in the stream.

On the island there is an electric tram service, the lines running along the south side of the harbour for practically the whole length of the island; the steepness and proximity of the hills renders any lateral development of this system impossible.

There is also a funicular tramway running from the lower levels up to the residential area on the Peak, the upper terminus being at a level of 1,300 feet.

There is a plentiful supply of rickshaws and sedan-chairs, and a large number of motor cars which ply for public hire. Taxicabs have recently been reintroduced.

There are excellent motor roads round the island and to the Peak, and also round the New Territories. No large extensions were made in 1927. (See Public Works).

POST OFFICE.

Mails.—The number of mail receptacles of Hong Kong origin dispatched during the year was 35,159 as compared with 31,863 in 1926—an increase of 3,296; the number received was 43,638 as compared with 38,262—an increase of 5,376.

Receptacles in transit, including those to and from British and Foreign Men-of-War, numbered 194,200 as against 186,806 in 1926—an increase of 7,394.

Registered Articles and Parcels.—The number of registered articles handled amounted to 833,177 as compared with 880,721 in 1926—a decrease of 47,544.

The figures for insured letters were 17,648 and 20,236 respectively—a decrease of 2,588.

The decrease in the number of insured letters was due to the fact that some countries are now forwarding insured letters direct to China in closed sacks.

Parcels, ordinary and insured, which were dealt with reached a total of 424,047 as against 555,345 in 1926—a decrease of 131,307.

WIRELESS.

A radio-telegraph station established at Cape D'Aguilar provides communication with vessels inter ports. The Kowloon Royal Observatory W/T Station, longitude 114° 10' 18.7 E., latitude 22° 18' 13.2 N., opened for meteorological traffic on 1st April, 1927. Call sign "G.O.W."

The revenue collected by the Post Office during the year from radiotelegrams amounted to \$122,798.02, an increase of \$55,596.63 on the amount collected in 1926.

The number of radiotelegrams forwarded during the year was 22,793 consisting of 209,171 words against 7,836 consisting of 81,000 words in 1926, and 26,326 were received consisting of 276,078 words as against 13,725 consisting of 156,128 words in 1926.

CABLES.

The Eastern Extension Telegraph Company (British) by means of three cables to Singapore, one direct and one each *via* Labuan & Cape St. James respectively, provide good connections with Europe *via* India, with Australasia, and with the other British Colonies and possessions. By their cable to Manila connection is made with the direct American cable, thence to San Francisco. Two cables to Shanghai, belonging respectively to the Eastern Extension and to the Great Northern (Danish) Companies, *via* Foochow and Amoy respectively, give a good connection with Shanghai, North China, Japan and Russia; and the system of the Great Northern Telegraph Co. gives a good service to Europe *via* Asiatic Russia.

TELEPHONES.

Telephonic communication, provided by the Hong Kong Telephone Co., is available to most parts of the Colony.

VI.—Justice, Police and Prisons.

Serious crime in 1927 showed an increase over that in 1926—4,553 cases against 3,713 in 1926. Minor crime also showed an increase—19,891 cases against 16,335 cases in 1926.

The increase in serious crime is accounted for almost entirely by increases under burglary and larceny. Throughout the year there was a large number of unemployed in the Colony, while the Police Force, owing to difficulty in obtaining recruits, was appreciably below establishment strength.

There were decreases of 10 and 9 cases in murder and robbery respectively.

There has been a very considerable increase in the population of the Colony during the year, due to a gradual steady return of people and interests that left Hong Kong in 1926. This flow was increased to a flood at two periods—one during the political upheaval in Canton in April, the other in November and December when political disturbances culminated in a Communist rising and burning of part of that city. During the latter phase it is estimated that at least 50,000 refugees came to Hong Kong. The Police countered the internal effect of these movements by diverting temporarily certain sections of Police from normal duty to search and surveillance of incoming passengers in which work the newly formed Police Reserve also participated. Special patrols have also assisted in keeping Hong Kong immune from abnormal crime waves which have been experienced in other ports. The Colony is also indebted to cordial co-operation throughout the year from the Police Authorities in Canton and Macao.

Piracy.—Two Naval expeditions, accompanied by a party of Hong Kong Police, were undertaken on March 23rd and September 1st each following the piracy of a British ship. Operations were confined to destroying the dwellings of pirates. No injury to persons occurred. Intelligence work became more successful. The result was seen in the capture of the pirated vessel S.S. "Irene" with the pirates on board on October 19th by H. M. Submarine L.4. 15 pirates from Bias Bay were executed in Hong Kong during 1927. There has been no piracy emanating from Bias Bay since the case of the s.s. "Irene".

A number of piracies on junks occurred during the year, in waters near Hong Kong. Piracy in the Canton River delta has increased.

The year was free from serious strikes or industrial trouble. Two events of importance took place:—

- (1) Proscription of the Hong Kong General Labour Union on 31st March.
- (2) Proscription of the Chinese Seamen's Union on 26th May.

The closing of these two centres of sedition evoked no opposition; on the contrary the workers seem content to be rid of their domination. Small bands of agitators have attempted to cause mischief on a few occasions but they met with no success.

Constant touch has been maintained with the Shanghai Defence Force.

The only serious outrage occurred on the 7th December when a party of 4 Armed Robbers who had committed an armed robbery in the Western District were intercepted in the Central District by a Police Search Party. One of the robbers opened fire on the Police seriously wounding the European Sergeant in charge and a Chinese

Detective. One robber was shot dead and two were arrested, one of the latter, however, not until he had seriously wounded one Indian Constable, and one Chinese Constable who subsequently died of his wounds. He also shot dead another Chinese Constable who attempted to intercept him. The Court cases were still pending at the end of the year.

The year 1927 witnessed the formation of the Police Reserve on lines similar to the Police Reserve organised during the War. It consists of four Contingents, one European, one Indian, one Chinese and a mixed Motor Cycle Squad.

The District Watchmen Force, to which the Government contributes \$2,000 per annum, was well supported by the Chinese during the year. These watchmen patrol the streets in the Chinese quarter of the City. They are placed on police beats and are supervised by the European police on section patrol. A detective branch of the force has done useful work under the supervision of a European Inspector.

At the end of the year the District Watch Force reached full strength consisting of 122 members. The number of convictions secured by members of the force was 606, a number far above any previous record, as compared with 467 in 1926. Particular attention was given to the activities of pick-pockets with gratifying results; 17% of convictions were of this class. Larceny cases made up 34% and unlawful possession added another 17%.

The total number of persons committed to Victoria Gaol was 7,740 as compared with 6,511 in 1926. Of these 1,740 were committed for criminal offences against 1,454 in 1926. Of committals for non-criminal offences there were 165 less for hawking without a licence, and 2 more for unlawfully cutting trees, than in 1926.

The daily average of prisoners confined in the Gaol was 1,189 the average for 1926 being 1,054 and the highest previous average being 1,116 in 1925. The percentage of prisoners to population, according to the daily average of the former and the estimated number of the latter, was 0.136. The average percentage for the last ten years was 0.12. Owing, however, to the large floating population, which is constantly moving between the Colony and Chinese Territory, the percentage of crime to population does not convey an accurate idea of the comparative criminality of the residents of the Colony. The Victoria Gaol has accommodation for 700 prisoners including patients in Hospital. The Branch Prison at Laichikok has accommodation for 450 prisoners.

The prison discipline was satisfactory, the average of punishments per prisoner being 0.52 as compared with 0.49 in 1926 and 0.71 in 1925.

Prisoners are employed at printing, book-binding, tinsmithing, mat-making, tailoring, carpentering, soap-making, gardening etc. Practically all the Government printing and bookbinding is done in Victoria Gaol.

VII.—Public Works.

BUILDINGS.

During the year progress as stated was made on the following works:—

Hong Kong.—Work on the Ventris Road Quarters proceeded satisfactorily and the buildings were completed in August. A large garage at the Central Police Station was also erected during the year and work was commenced in July on a new Hospital for the Victoria Gaol.

Kowloon.—Minor works only were carried out during the year.

New Kowloon.—The principal work executed in this district was the erection and equipment of a large camp of wooden huts for the Military Authority. About 140 huts of varying sizes were built.

This work, which was of the greatest urgency was commenced on the first of March and the whole of the camp was completed and fully equipped with furniture, light, water, etc., in less than two months from its commencement.

New Territories.—Minor works only were carried out in this District.

The work of erection of Quarters for Cadets in Canton proceeded satisfactorily and the building was completed in the month of March.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Hong Kong.—The Contract for the road contouring Tai Hang Valley was closed owing to conditions prevailing in the Colony.

Road construction work in the Wongneichong Development area made slow progress owing to the non-fulfillment of building covenants by various lessees.

Kowloon.—The Formation of To Kwa Wan Road was completed but Argyle Street Extension was delayed owing to the contractor becoming financially embarrassed. Waterloo Road Extension made fair progress.

New Kowloon.—Waterloo Road Extension to the foothills made fair progress, the southern portion being prepared for surfacing.

Road to Dairy Farm Lots at Diamond Hill was practically completed by the end of the year.

New Territories.—The approaches and New Bridge at Tai Po were completed and opened to traffic before the end of the year.

DRAINAGE.

Hong Kong.—Considerable progress was made with the re-construction of Wong Nei Chong nullah, sections 1 and 2 being completed, and a start being made on section 3 (from Bowrington Canal to Chinese Race Stand) which was about half finished by the end of the year.

New sewers and storm water drains were laid to a length of 2,500 feet; and stream courses were trained to a length of 2,450 feet.

Good progress was made with the re-drainage of the area between the Praya and Queen's Road East, in connexion with the Praya East Reclamation scheme.

Kowloon.—The section of the large stormwater culvert in Tong Mi Road necessary for present requirements was completed.

A start was made after the rains with the large nullah in the New Cemeteries Area, Homuntin, and good progress made.

New sewers and storm water drains were constructed to the length of 9,030 feet.

Trenches were cut and swamps filled-in, in connexion with the anti-malaria campaign.

New Kowloon.—New sewers and storm water drains were constructed over the area generally to the length of 3,930 feet, and in the Kowloon Tong Estate to the length of 13,346 feet.

Anti-malarial work was continued, and nullah training carried out on the hillsides north of N.K.I.L's 420 and 362, Cheung Sha Wan.

New Territories.—Various works were carried out, of an anti-malaria nature, at Taipo and Taipo Market. Some small extensions were made to sewers, and additional gully connexions given.

WATER WORKS

Hong Kong.—The Western half of the Service Reservoir at the Eastern Filter Beds was completed and put into use while the covering of the Eastern half was nearly completed. Considerable work was done also in approach roads, sandwashing sites, banks etc.

The change from slow sand beds to fast gravity filter beds at Bowen Road was completed, and the new Paterson Rapid Gravity Filters were put into use in June and proved very satisfactory.

The new plant has been constructed inside one of the three old slow sand beds, and the other two beds have been roofed over and made into additional service reservoirs to feed the Kennedy Road District. Additional head has thereby been obtained for No. 4 Hydraulic Motor, which shows a large increase in output.

The leakage from Wongneichong Reservoir has been picked up below the dam and conveyed by means of a 2" dia. W.I. pipe to a small service reservoir on the hill behind Deep Water Bay. This supply is being utilized for supplying R.B.L. 245 and distribution pipes have been laid in the roads.

Considerable investigation work was carried out in connection with a proposed scheme for the development of the Aberdeen Valley.

Kowloon.—The following lengths of cast iron distribution mains were laid: 450 lin. feet of 3" dia. 870 lin. ft. of 4" dia., 8,110 lin. ft. of 6" dia., 1,750 lin. ft. of 8" dia. and 750 lin. ft. of 18" dia.

New Kowloon.—An additional length of 4,000 lin. ft. of 6" C.I. pipes was laid in the Kowloon Tong Development area.

New Territories.—Shing Mun Valley Scheme. A length of about eighty feet of the North Tunnel was straightened, and considerable lengths of pathways, copings and channelling were completed.

Pipe laying commenced in August and a total length of 3,230 lin. feet of 24" dia. steel main had been laid by the end of the year. The two reinforced concrete bridges over the Sheklai-pui Stream were completed.

Construction of the Fast Gravity Filter Beds and Chemical House was commenced during the year and fair progress was made.

RECLAMATIONS.

Hong Kong.—Praya East, about 90 acres, of which about 75 acres were reclaimed at end of year.

North Point.—Private Scheme, 23½ acres, scheme almost completed.

Kowloon.—Taikoktsui, about 54 acres, of which about 52 were reclaimed by end of the year.

New Kowloon.—Shamshuipo Reclamation comprising an area of about 66 acres completed except for sea wall. No further work was carried out during the year.

Kai Tack Reclamation.—Originally a private enterprise, was resumed by Government early in the year. Approximate area 205 acres, about 40 acres were filled in during the year, making a total of about 160 acres of reclaimed land.

Kowloon Bay West Reclamation.—This work remained in abeyance practically throughout the year.

Kowloon Bay East Reclamation.—Practically no work done during the year.

New Territories.—Further Reclamation work was undertaken by the Standard Oil Co. and about 75% completed.

PIERS.

Hong Kong.—The extensive repair work on Blake Pier was satisfactorily completed.

Kowloon.—The Police Pier at Tsim Sha Tsui suffered considerable damage from typhoon seas during July. Repair work was well in hand by end of the year.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The total amount expended on Public Works Extraordinary was \$2,966,390.69 and on annually recurrent works \$1,542,494.98.

VIII.—Public Health.

The Birth rate for the year was 8.2 per 1000 among the Chinese community and 19.6 per 1000 among the Non-Chinese as compared with 4.18 and 19.21 in 1926. This is the highest Chinese birth rate ever recorded in the Colony. Birth statistics in Hong Kong are most misleading as registration is largely evaded by the Chinese especially as regards female children. Registration of Chinese births in 1927 shows increases of 104% as regards males and 153% as regards females over the figures for 1926; the population is estimated to have increased meanwhile by about 10% and it appears, therefore, that registration of births, especially of females, is being carried out to a greater degree than formerly.

The death rate for the year was 16.6 per 1000 among the Chinese community and 13.2 per 1000 among the Non-Chinese civil community, as compared with 16.01 and 10.9 in 1926. The ratio of deaths of infants to the total deaths registered was 31.6% (27.3% in 1926).

There were 4,239 deaths from respiratory diseases other than Tuberculosis as compared with 3,566 in 1926. Of these 34 were Non-Chinese (27 in 1926). Tubercular infections of the respiratory system caused 1,595 deaths in 1927 (1,517 in 1926) of which 31 were

Non-Chinese (28 in 1926). The total deaths from tubercular infections amounted to 14.38% (15.27 in 1926) of the total deaths registered.

The deaths from Malaria numbered 635 (587 in 1926). The deaths of Chinese from this cause in the City of Victoria numbered 260 (172 in 1926) in an estimated population of 500,000 giving a death rate of 0.52 per 1000 (0.38 in 1926).

The deaths from Beriberi, which were high in 1925 again showed a decrease, being 744 (1,192 in 1926 and 1,744 in 1925), or 5.04 of the total deaths recorded (9.5 in 1926 and 11.6 in 1925).

The incidence of notifiable infectious diseases was slight, the total number being 612 of which 72 were imported. Of the local cases 266 were Typhoid and Paratyphoid. For the fourth year in succession there were no cases of Plague. The last notification of plague was on 27th September 1923 while the last case of a plague infected rat was found on 17th September 1923. Systematic rat catching is carried out; 155,515 rats were sent to the Public mortuary for examination during 1927. None were plague infected. The routine work authorised under the bylaws for the Prevention of epidemic, endemic and contagious or infectious disease was carried out throughout the year. 87,612 floors were cleansed in Hong Kong and 48,754 in Kowloon; all premises were cleansed twice, some three times and a few four times. Systematic limewashing of all domestic premises within the areas prescribed, which are occupied by the members of more than one family, was similarly supervised as required by the bylaws on Domestic Cleanliness and Ventilation; 26,585 floors were limewashed in Hong Kong and 17,788 in Kowloon. To these two methods of ensuring a fair standard of cleanliness among the poorer classes of the community is largely owed the comparative immunity of Hong Kong from epidemic disease.

No cases of locally acquired cholera have been reported in the Colony since September 1922. There were 3 cases in 1927 all being imported.

There was a minor epidemic of smallpox during the early part of the year; the total number of cases notified being 149, of which 18 were imported. There were 126 deaths, all Chinese.

The incidence of Cerebro Spinal Fever during 1927 continued to be slight, there being 32 cases of which 2 were imported.

The total number of cases of Enteric and Paratyphoid Fevers during 1927 was 314 of which 7 were Paratyphoid. The cases of local origin amounted to 204 of Enteric and 4 of Paratyphoid among the Chinese community and 57 cases of Enteric and 1 of Paratyphoid among the Non-Chinese population. There were 28 Chinese and 12 Non-Chinese imported cases of Enteric and 5 Chinese and 1 Non-Chinese cases from the New Territory. There were 2 cases of Paratyphoid, 1 being imported and 1 from the New Territory.

The number of cases of Diphtheria was 87 of which 65 were Chinese and 22 Non-Chinese. Of these 2 Non-Chinese and 4 Chinese cases were imported.

There was one case of Hydrophobia, the victim being Non-Chinese. During the year 312 dogs were placed under observation on suspicion of being rabid and 11 carcasses were sent direct to the Bacteriologist for examination. 34 dog brains were examined during the year; in 5 Negri bodies were present. These 5 cases were in Kowloon and New Territories; in Hong Kong Island it would appear as if the last outbreak was now over, as no positive case has been detected since December 1926.

GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS.

Civil Hospital.—This hospital consists of three blocks and contains 198 beds in 23 wards.

4,894 in-patients and 35,962 out patients were treated during 1927 as against 5,381 and 16,969 respectively in 1926.

Attached to the hospital is an isolated Maternity Hospital containing 20 beds. 686 patients were admitted during the year (626 in 1926). Since the opening of the Maternity Block at Victoria Hospital, this hospital has been mainly used for Asiatics.

Victoria Hospital.—This hospital is situated on the Peak and consists of a Main Block and a Maternity Block. The hospital was originally reserved for women and children but since the opening of the Maternity Block the accommodation in the main building was more than was required and in December it was decided to admit male patients also.

There are 38 beds in the main building to which 323 patients were admitted, and 33 in the Maternity Block to which 63 were admitted.

The Infectious Diseases Hospital is situated on the western outskirts of the city—it is used mainly for the treatment of Small-pox. The Hospital contains 26 beds to which 9 patients were admitted (13 in 1926).

Kowloon Hospital.—Situated on the mainland has 48 beds. 980 patients were treated in 1927 as compared with 894 in 1926.

TUNG WAH HOSPITAL (Government aided).

Number of beds	480
Number of patients treated in 1927	9,726
Number of patients treated in 1926	7,951

INFECTIOUS DISEASES BRANCH.

Number of beds	70
Number of patients treated in 1927	31
Number of patients treated in 1926	23

KWONG WAH HOSPITAL, KOWLOON, (Government aided).

Number of beds	226
Number of patients treated in 1927	7,593
Number of patients treated in 1926	6,336

The Hospitals are under the supervision of a Visiting Medical Officer who is a member of the Medical Department.

LUNATIC ASYLUM.

The Asylum is situated close to the Civil Hospital and is under the direction of the Medical Officer in charge of that hospital. European and Chinese patients are separated, the European portion containing 14 beds in separate wards and the Chinese portion 16 beds.

267 patients of all races were treated during 1927 and there were 18 deaths.

IX.—Education.

The total numbers of pupils at schools in the Colony, excluding the Police School, are:—

	Number of Pupils		Total
	English Schools	Vernacular Schools	
Government Schools	3,528	369	3,897
Military School	135	—	135
Excluded Private School	158	—	158
Grant Schools	3,911	1,051	4,962
Vernacular Schools, Urban District....	—	30,622	30,622
Vernacular Schools, Rural District....	—	5,375	5,375
Private English Schools	4,721	—	4,721
Technical Institute	620	—	620
Total	13,073	37,417	50,490

The chief Government Schools are Queen's College, King's College, and three District Schools for Chinese boys, the Belilios Public School for Chinese girls, the Vernacular Middle School and two Vernacular Normal Schools, and the Ellis Kadoorie School for Indians.

The Central British School and Kowloon Junior, Victoria, and Quarry Bay Schools for children of British parentage have an average attendance of 286. There is also a school for children of the Peak District with an average attendance of 49.

There are 5 Grant-in-Aid Anglo-Chinese Schools for boys and 6 for girls, and 4 Grant-in-Aid Vernacular School for girls.

The Hong Kong Technical Institute affords an opportunity for higher education of students who have left school. Instruction was given in 1927 in Building Construction, Field Surveying, Mathematics, Chemistry (Practical and Theoretical), Metallurgy, Physics, Electricity, French, Shorthand, Sanitation and Cookery. Classes for men and women teachers, both "English" and "Vernacular" are a feature of the Institute.

The lecturers are recruited from members of the medical and educational professions in the Colony, and from the Department of Public Works, and receive fees for their services. The Institute is furnished with a well equipped chemical laboratory and excellent physical apparatus.

The expenditure of the Education Department in 1927 was \$1,091,423.21 and the revenue collected from Government School fees was \$121,981.75.

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

The University of Hong Kong was incorporated under a local University Ordinance, 1911, and opened in 1912. It is a residential University and open to students of both sexes.

The late Sir Hormusjee Mody bore the entire expense of the erection of the main building and additions have been made through the liberality of benefactors of varied nationality and domicile. The latest addition to the buildings is a workshop built out of a contribution from Sir Robert Ho Tung.

The annual income of the University now amounts to about \$514,000 of which about \$315,000 comes from endowments and \$50,000 from Government. Messrs. Butterfield and Swire gave \$40,000 to the original endowment fund and subsequently \$100,000 for engineering equipment. The Rockefeller Institution has endowed the University with three chairs in surgery, medicine and obstetrics, the endowment being in each case \$250,000.

The expenditure for the year 1927 amounted to \$507,887.

The University includes the three Faculties of Medicine, Engineering and Arts. Admission to all faculties is conditional upon passing the matriculation examination of the University or some examination recognised as equivalent thereto.

The Faculty of Medicine provides a six year course of study in the usual pre-medical and medical sciences, leading to the degree of M.B. and B.S. The degrees of M.D., and M.S., may be obtained for postgraduate work. The degrees above mentioned are recognised by the General Medical Council for registration in Great Britain.

The Faculty of Engineering provides a four year course in practical and theoretical engineering, leading to the degree of B.Sc., (Eng.). Fourth year students specialize in civil, in mechanical or in electrical engineering. The degree for post-graduate work is that of M.Sc., (Eng.).

The Faculty of Arts includes departments of pure arts and science, social science, commerce and a department for training teachers. The course is in all cases one of four years and leads to the degree of B.A. The degree for post-graduate work is that of M.A.

With a view to securing the maintenance of the desired standard—which is in all three faculties that of a British University degree—external examiners are, in all faculties, associated with the internal examiners in all annual final examinations. In the Faculty of Engineering, but not in other faculties, degrees with honours are granted, the standard being assessed by special examiners chosen from amongst the external examiners in the University of London.

The degree of LL.D., is granted, *honoris causa*.

The site of the University was given by the Government of Hong Kong. As subsequently enlarged by minor grants and by purchase, the University estate covers an area of 709,789 sq. ft. The view from the grounds over the harbour is magnificent and the grounds are naturally beautiful.

In the main buildings are housed the chemical and physical laboratories, the University library and portions of the engineering laboratories. They further include the Great Hall, a Senate room and the lecture and class rooms used by the Faculty of Arts and for general purposes.

Special medical buildings include schools of anatomy, physiology, pathology and tropical medicine, erected at the cost of Chinese gentlemen resident in the Colony. Clinical instruction is given at the Government Civil Hospital.

Special engineering buildings include:—

- (a) a power station, with internal combustion engines of varied types which are maintained for instructional purposes;

- (b) a primemovers (steam) and hydraulics laboratory, at present housed in a converted pumping station, formerly the property of the Government; and
- (c) A workshop, for practical instruction of students.

Electrical machinery, electrical technology, the testing of materials and experimental mechanics are dealt with in the main building.

The larger part of the engineering equipment was the gift of British engineering firms.

Other buildings upon the estate include:—

- (a) the Vice-Chancellor's Lodge
- (b) Staff-quarters
- (c) the resident hostels, and
- (d) the University Union Building.

Unless exempted from residence (such exemption being ordinarily granted on the ground that the student's "manner of life" is not such as is catered for in the hostels), every matriculated student is required to reside either in a University or recognised hostel.

The University hostels are three in number—Lugard Hall, Eliot Hall and May Hall.

Recognised hostels are at present two in number—Morrison Hall, situated immediately above the University grounds and conducted by the London Missionary Society, and St. John's Hall, immediately opposite the front of the University, conducted by the Church Missionary Society.

Each student occupies a separate room or cubicle, and there are the usual common rooms. Each University hostel is in charge of a member of the staff, as resident warden.

No University hostel at present exists for women students—whose right to admission to the University was first recognised in 1921; but some arrangements for the accommodation of a few women students in a rented building have been made by the authorities of St. Stephen's Girls' College, a Church of England girls' school which is near the University. The nuns of a neighbouring Italian convent are also prepared to house a few women students.

The tuition fee is \$300—the hostel fee which includes board and lodging is \$300. A student who is allowed to live in a hostel during a vacation—some have to because of their work, *e.g.* medical students, and others because their homes are too far away—pay at the rate of \$8 a week. When a student joins he is required to deposit caution money to the extent of \$25, and to pay a registration fee of \$5. The annual subscription to the University Union is \$15 and this covers the annual subscription to practically all the athletic

clubs. The graduation fee is \$25. Probably about \$1,200 represents the minimum amount which at present prices would cover a student's annual expenses including vacations. It would cost a Chinese student who goes abroad \$2,500 a year at the very least and this would not cover travelling expenses.

Numerous scholarships are available, including the King Edward VII Scholarships founded by His Majesty's Government. There are also scholarships provided by the Governments of Hong Kong, of the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States, of Kedah and Siam.

The Union is the centre of the social life of the students. It is at once a Club and a centre of athletics. The Union Committee contains certain members of the University teaching staff, but its President and Secretary are undergraduates elected by the undergraduates. The undergraduate members of the Committee are also elected by their fellow students. There is a Union magazine with English and Chinese sections. The editors are students, a member of the teaching staff acting as assistant editor. There are twenty-one women students; these women students are all members of the Union.

Students of the University come from Kwangtung, Chihli, Hankow, Hupeh, Yunnan, Hunan, Shanghai, Peking, Fukien, Singapore, Penang, Kuala Lumpur, Kedah, Lahore, Java, Manila, Burma, Siam, Japan, India and Macao. The present enrolment is 300 of whom 251 are Chinese and 49 non-Chinese.

X.—Lands and Surveys.

LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

1. (1) Sales of Crown Land and Pier rights (exclusive of the New Territories) during 1927 produced \$107,633.63 a decrease of \$144,897.22 on the preceding year, and \$1,397,985.80 less than the average of the previous five years.

(2). Sales of Crown Land and Pier rights in the New Territories produced \$32,741.21 an increase of \$6,649.42 on the preceding year, and \$213,330.91 less than the average of the previous five years.

(3). The average decrease is explained by the fact that the years 1922, 1923, and 1924 were boom years followed by a severe slump from which the Colony has not yet fully recovered.

2. The total area of land leased during the year was 454 Acres 3 Roods and 26-1/5 Poles being 931 Acres 3 Roods and 15 Poles less than in 1926.

3. (1). The total area resumed (including Re-entries and Surrenders) was 584 Acres and 2-4/5 Poles a decrease of 1481 Acres 2 Roods and 31-3/5 Poles on 1926.

(2). Non-fulfilment of Building Covenants (owing to financial depression) necessitated Re-entry on over 90 Acres in the Colony.

4. The Village development continues in the Northern District of the New Territories but there was little or no fresh development in semi-urban areas.

SURVEYS.

An Aerial Survey of the Colony was undertaken in 1924 and the ground work necessary to enable new maps of the Colony to be published was completed in 1927.

The Geological Survey of the Colony was continued by Dr. Brock, Dean of the Faculty of Geology, University of British Columbia.

XI.—Labour.

The Illegal Strikes and Lock-outs Ordinance, No. 10, was based on the English Trades Disputes and Trade Union bill, which became law in England on the 29th July, 1927. The Hong Kong Ordinance became law on the 8th July, 1927.

FACTORIES.

The ordinance regulating the employment of children in factories has now been in force for five years and it may not be out of place to survey briefly the results attained. This ordinance (No. 22 of 1922) was the first piece of constructive factory legislation introduced into this Colony and to the Chinese factory owners was an entirely new departure. In the earlier stages a large number of the younger children were dismissed from the factories, the owners finding it easier to dispense with child labour than to comply with the requirements of the ordinance as to hours of work, overtime and holidays. The children so dismissed have not been replaced and it is now admitted that the absence of child labour need not affect output. In factories where children have been retained the conditions of the ordinance have been accepted without serious objection. No European firms in the Colony employ children under the age of 15 years and the total number of children employed has been reduced until at present there are not more than one hundred and fifty children under that age regularly at work in factories. This large reduction is partly accounted for by the depression in the knitting trade and cigarette factories. No new beginners have been taken on during the year and many of these who have hitherto been registered under the ordinance have now outgrown the age of registration. The cigarette factories which formerly employed a large number of young girls were closed for a considerable part of the year: production has now been resumed but on a limited scale and where formerly 160 children were engaged in packing cigarettes there are now but 15 at work. Apart from the cigarette trade the knitting factories of Kowloon are the principal employers of women and girls. Some of these have closed down during the year: others have found

markets elsewhere to replace those lost and have built up a considerable export trade with Singapore and the Dutch East Indies. The trade outlook appears brighter and some firms are installing new machinery and plant in anticipation of improved trade in the near future.

Dangerous Trades.—Glass making, boiler chipping and firework making. Visits of inspection have been made to all places where these trades are carried on. No breach of the ordinance has been discovered.

Building material etc.—The practice of engaging children to carry coal, bricks and sand up the Peak, once so common and the subject of so much comment has almost entirely ceased. Isolated cases still occur where children are found helping their mothers but they are not now regularly employed and engaged by contractors for this work.

XII.—Legislation.

Twenty-eight ordinances were passed during 1927. The most important were the following.

The Factory (Accidents) Ordinance, No. 3, gives power to make regulations for the purpose of preventing accidents. The regulations which have been made are short and simple. In this matter it is necessary to proceed here by easy stages until Chinese public opinion has been more fully educated on the subject. In any case, the proximity of China makes it impossible to proceed too far on European lines while China lags so far behind.

The Basel Evangelical Missionary Society Incorporation Ordinance, No. 7, restores this mission to its pre-war status and position.

The Public Revenue Protection Ordinance, No. 9, provides a method of imposing or altering taxation rapidly and secretly, with the object of defeating attempts to take advantage of the old rate of taxation, or freedom from taxation, by means of accelerated clearances from bond or otherwise. It gives the Governor power to impose or alter taxation provisionally, and it provides that the taxation so imposed or altered is to be operative from the actual making of the order by the Governor. The Governor's order remains in force for only four months at most, and it ceases to be in force before that time if the proposals embodied in it are rejected by the Legislative Council. If the Governor's order is not ratified by Legislative Council any excess taxation paid has to be refunded.

The Suppression of Piracy Amendment Ordinance, No. 15, provides for the abolition of the present system by which ship owners have to give bonds binding them to provide grilles and to make certain other structural alterations of their ships, to employ guards, and to carry out certain other anti-piracy measures within certain portions of their voyages from and to Hong Kong. This system was probably necessary originally, but it has now been decided to leave the question of anti-piracy measures on board to the ship-owners themselves, and to confine the Government anti-piracy

measures to searching the ships and their passengers so far as may be practical, before they sail from Hong Kong. The Ordinance contains a suspending clause and was not put into operation in 1927.

The Chinese Extradition Amendment Ordinance, No. 17, is an attempt to make possible again extradition from Hong Kong to China which had been rendered impossible by the abnormal constitutional condition of China. It enables the Governor to act on a request received from any person which he may declare to be or to represent the person or persons actually exercising authority in any province or other territory which has at any time formed part of the Republic of China.

XIII.—Miscellaneous.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Two hundred and eighty five thousand, five hundred and ninety three emigrants (285,593) left Hong Kong for various places during the year 1927. Of these, 138,263 were carried in British ships and 147,300 in Foreign ships.

One hundred and eighty one thousand, and one hundred (181,100) returning emigrants were reported to have been brought to Hong Kong from the several places to which they had emigrated either from this colony or from coast ports, as against 128,661 in 1926. On these, 400,889 arrived in British ships and 80,211 in Foreign ships.

Statement of number of emigrants to Straits Settlement 1915 to 1927 compared with total Chinese emigration.

	No. of Emigrants to Straits Settlement.	Total No. of Emigrants.
1915	41,278	68,275
1916	82,797	117,653
1917	63,292	96,298
1918	8,019	43,830
1919	11,638	59,969
1920	43,935	105,258
1921	87,324	156,011
1922	50,356	98,393
1923	65,584	120,224
1924	75,682	129,859
1925	97,552	140,534
1926	157,285	216,527
1927	202,408	285,593

INSTITUTIONS.

Among institutions recognised and encouraged, but not to any considerable extent supported by Government may be mentioned the Pó Leung Kuk, the Lyre Refuge, the City Hall, and the Chinese Public Dispensaries.

The Pó Leung Kuk is a Chinese Society founded in 1878 for the suppression of kidnapping and traffic in human beings. It was incorporated in 1893 and is presided over by the Secretary for Chinese Affairs and not more than twelve directors nominated by the Governor. The actual management is entrusted to a committee elected annually by the members of the Society. The Society's buildings have been declared a Refuge under the Women and Girls Protection Ordinance, and almost all women and girls detained by the Secretary for Chinese Affairs under that Ordinance are sent to the Pó Leung Kuk. During 1926 the number of persons admitted was 299 and at the close of the year 45 remained under the care of the Society. The inmates are under the immediate charge of a Chinese matron, and instruction is given them by the matron and a Chinese teacher in elementary subjects and in needlework.

The Chinese Public Dispensaries are institutions maintained in order to provide the Chinese with the services of doctors, whose certificates will be accepted by the Registrar of Deaths, and with the services of interpreters, who can assist the inmates of houses, where a case of infectious disease has occurred. Coolies are engaged and ambulances and dead vans provided in order to remove cases of infectious disease to the Infectious Diseases Hospital and dead bodies to the Mortuary. The Dispensaries receive sick infants and send them to one or other of the Convents and arrange for the burial of dead infants. Free advice and medicine are given and patients are attended at their houses. There are eight Dispensaries in existence. The Government makes an annual grant of \$2,000, and the rest of the cost is defrayed by voluntary subscription. The Dispensaries are conducted by committees under the chairmanship of the Secretary for Chinese Affairs.

The Tung Wa Hospital, opened in 1872, is mainly supported by the voluntary subscriptions of Chinese, but receives an annual grant of \$8,000 from the Government. Only Chinese are treated in this institution. Various other services not appertaining to a hospital are performed by the institution, such as the free burial of the poor, the repatriation of destitutes, the maintenance of free vernacular schools, and the organisation of charitable relief in emergencies: Chinese as well as European methods of treatment are employed in accordance with the wishes expressed by the patients or their friends. Over half the number are now treated by Western methods. The hospital is managed by a committee of Chinese gentlemen annually elected, their appointment being submitted to the Governor for confirmation.

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An historical event of importance in the development of the Empire's Agriculture took place towards the close of 1927. The foundations were, it is believed, then laid for the ultimate creation of a real and effective British agricultural commonwealth. The occasion was the Imperial Agricultural Research Conference held in Great Britain in October and November, 1927, which was attended by delegates of high standing from all countries in the Empire.

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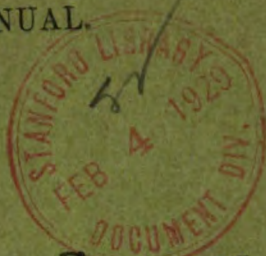
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JOHORE ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1927

BY

G. E. SHAW

Acting General Adviser

SINGAPORE :

Printed at the GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, SINGAPORE,
by W. T. CHERRY Government Printer.

1928

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STATE OF JOHORE FOR THE YEAR 1927

I.—FINANCIAL

The Revenue for 1927 amounted to \$18,239,023 as compared with \$18,781,565 for 1926 and \$15,884,592 for 1925. The estimated revenue for the year was exceeded by \$3,708,323.

2. As compared with 1926 there was a net decrease of \$542,542. There were increases under all the main Heads of Revenue except under Customs and Licences which showed decreases of \$1,285,521 and \$346,539 respectively. The comparative receipts as shewn by the Treasury Books for 1926 and 1927 under the larger items were as follows:—

	1926	1927	Increase	Decrease
	—	—	—	—
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<i>Land Revenue</i> ...	2,173,477	2,380,293	206,816	—
<i>Customs—</i>				
Copra, etc. ...	269,275	224,025	—	45,250
Rubber ...	3,363,680	2,090,245	—	1,273,435
Tobacco ...	1,424,835	1,453,120	28,285	—
Spirits ...	1,012,044	962,009	—	50,035
Petroleum ...	322,130	372,553	50,423	—
Iron Ore ...	125,050	181,431	55,381	—
<i>Licences—</i>				
Chandu				
Revenue ...	5,735,760	5,388,749	—	347,011
<i>Posts and</i>				
<i>Telegraphs</i> ...	192,218	238,299	46,081	—
<i>Interest</i> ...	604,323	719,292	114,969	—
<i>Municipal</i> ...	705,535	838,516	132,981	—
<i>Land Sales</i> ...	696,775	1,136,899	440,124	—

The increase under Land Revenue was principally under Land Rents (Recurrent) which amounted to \$2,164,835 against \$1,971,558 in the previous year.

The decrease in rubber duty was due to the lower price of the commodity combined with a lower percentage of release.

Chandu Revenue shows a diminution of \$347,011. Under Posts and Telegraphs the increase was practically all due to increased Telephone receipts which rose from \$50,523 in 1926 to \$81,389.

Interest on Investments accounted for the increase under Interest.

The largest increase under Municipal was in receipts from Electric Lighting Charges, *viz.*, from \$74,013 to \$131,646, the reason being that Charges were made for Street Lighting and other supplies to Government Departments formerly supplied free.

The increase under Land Sales was entirely under Premia on Grants.

3. The percentage contributions of the principal Heads of Revenue to the total revenue (exclusive of Land Sales) for the years 1923—27 were as follows:—

	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927
	—	—	—	—	—
Lands and Forests ...	14'9	16'4	14'5	12'8	14'8
Customs ...	35'8	33'0	37'2	39'8	34'5
Licences ...	37'5	36'4	33'3	35'7	35'7
Other Revenue ...	11'8	14'2	15'0	11'7	15'0
	100'0	100'0	100'0	100'0	100'0

EXPENDITURE

4. The total expenditure in 1927 was \$15,348,473 as compared with \$18,099,232 for 1926 and an estimate of \$15,828,240.

5. In comparing the expenditure for 1926 and 1927 the contributions to the Opium Reserve Replacement Fund in these years should be deducted. When this is done the real net expenditure for 1927 was \$14,098,475 as compared with \$12,200,734 for 1926.

Expenditure under Pensions was \$344,097, an increase of \$113,274 over 1926 and \$90,330 over the estimate: this was due to the operation of the Pensions (Gratuities) Enactment which only came into force towards the end of 1926. Personal Emoluments increased by \$523,627 to \$3,836,077 but were \$146,378 under the estimate. Expenditure under Other Charges was \$2,727,270 an increase of \$629,045 over 1926 and \$162,496 over the estimate: the excess over the

estimate was due to an additional charge of \$175,874 for the supply of Chandu received in 1926.

Under Miscellaneous Services there was an increased expenditure of \$103,443 over 1926 and an excess of \$92,321 over the estimate. A contribution of \$100,000 to the Malayan Flood Relief Fund is however included in the expenditure under this head as also a loss of \$32,430 on Remittances to the Crown Agents and Sale of Investments. Under Public Works Annually Recurrent, expenditure increased by \$100,742 and exceeded the estimates by \$24,858 due to repairing Flood damages.

Expenditure on Public Works Special Services was \$1,451,170 more than in 1926 but \$770,448 under the estimate. Purchase of Land expenditure exceeded the estimate by \$61,839 but was \$1,014,385 less than in 1926.

INVESTMENTS

6. During the year £466,666.13.4 (\$4,000,000) was remitted to the Crown Agents for investment. A low rate of exchange ruled for the most part of the year and a loss of \$18,973.21 was incurred on one remittance made in August. Investments on account of Surplus Funds in Sterling Securities on 31st December, 1927 amounted to \$10,337,396 as compared with \$10,844,054 on 1st January, 1927. During the year Sterling Investments to the value of \$1,249,998 were transferred from Surplus Funds Investments to the Opium Reserve Replacement Fund. Investments in Straits Settlements Government Securities remained at the same figure, *viz.*, \$1,486,532 and local Fixed Deposits amounted to \$7,500,000 at the end of the year.

The Opium Reserve Replacement Fund Investments increased from \$6,119,922 on 1st January, 1927 to \$7,704,199 on 31st December, 1927: all in Sterling Securities.

The total investments held by the Government on 31st December, 1927 amounted to \$27,028,127.

7. The Surplus at the end of the year amounted to \$20,826,058 as compared with \$17,935,508 at the end of 1926. On the assets side of the Balance Sheet Cash including Cash in transit amounted to \$6,156,997 of which \$3,099,910.74 was held by the Crown Agents. Also on the Assets Side under Suspense a sum of \$593,475 is shown representing a Temporary Investment made by the Crown Agents. The amounts outstanding under Advances and Loans were \$154,672 and \$107,652 respectively.

8. The following are shown in appendices:—

Appendix A.—Statement of Assets and Liabilities
1926 and 1927.

Appendix B.—Statement of Actual Revenue 1926
and 1927.

Appendix C.—Statement of Actual Expenditure
1926 and 1927.

Appendix D.—Statistical Return of Progress 1923
to 1927.

II.—TRADE

9. The total trade for the year 1927 shows a value of \$126,828,445 (compared with \$173,266,820 in 1926) constituted as follows:—

		1926	1927
		—	—
		\$	\$
Imports	...	35,782,758	39,422,852
Exports	...	139,261,451	88,317,154
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		175,044,209	127,740,006
Less Re-Exports	...	1,777,389	911,561
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		173,266,820	126,828,445
		<hr/>	<hr/>

IMPORTS

10. The following table shows, under the main heads, the value for 1926 and 1927:—

		1926	1927
		—	—
		\$	\$
Class I.	Animals, Food, Drink and Tobacco	...	...
		18,870,490	23,809,484
II.	Raw materials and arti- cles mainly unmanu- factured	...	...
		2,597,532	2,411,915
III.	Articles wholly or mainly manufactured	...	...
		14,181,341	13,176,390
IV.	Coin and Bullion	...	...
		133,395	25,063
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		35,782,758	39,422,852
		<hr/>	<hr/>

EXPORTS

11. The following table shows a falling-off in the more important exports excepting iron-ore, timber and preserved pineapples :—

Articles	1926 Quantity	1927 Quantity	How Counted	1926 Value \$	1927 Value \$
Arecanuts ...	216,471.79	171,966.66½	Pkls.	2,151,035	1,247,676
Copra ...	576,412.71	532,068.60½	„	6,343,918	5,499,841
Pepper ...	171.53	202.28	„	10,140	13,153
Gambier ...	18,606.84	19,138.07	„	315,526	233,800
Coffee ...	201.68	560.19	„	10,611	33,536
Rubber ...	1,010,685.90½	825,258.31	„	119,580,069	69,084,686
Sweet Potatoes ...	21,466.12	17,870.30	„	42,930	49,173
Tapioca ...	154,287.36	130,275.98	„	796,203	534,700
Pineapples ...	26,930,686.—	24,455,378.—	Nos.	485,017	482,647
Preserved Pineapples	643,534.—	630,943.—	c/s.	3,372,251	4,480,605
Agricultural Produce ...	—	—	—	631,405	260,047
Timber ...	20,836.43	23,061.30½	Tons	1,089,742	1,291,420
Other Forest Produce ...	—	—	—	262,898	311,434
Tin ...	17,452.71	16,373.28½	Pkls.	2,518,656	2,356,495
Iron-ore ...	250,099.95	409,241.8	Tons	1,250,498	2,046,205
China Clay ...	337.25	824.04	„	7,747	16,481
Wolfram ...	—	—	Pkls.	—	—
Marine Produce ...	—	—	—	144,317	83,221
Swine ...	1,518.—	4,029.—	Nos.	38,100	87,894
Cattle ...	14.—	4.—	„	1,742	310
Poultry ...	1,714½	3,189½	Dozs.	17,604	31,970
Goats and Sheep ...	13	1	Nos.	230	5
Eggs ...	3,376,220.—	3,181,360.—	„	123,519	121,457
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	67,284	50,398
TOTAL ...				139,261,451	88,317,154

III.—AGRICULTURE

12. The field staff of the Department consisted, at the end of the year, of the Inspector of Agriculture, six junior agricultural assistants, one probationer and eight sub-inspectors. Three agricultural apprentices were undergoing training at the Department of Agriculture, Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States, Kuala Lumpur.

RUBBER

13. Continued interest is being taken in the matter of soil conservation and improvement of poorer areas. Experiments with artificial fertilisers have continued on many

estates and give good promise. Ammonium Sulphate is at present receiving greatest attention. There is increasing demand for improved planting material by way both of seed selection and bud-grafting.

14. The export of rubber was 825,258 pikuls valued at \$69,084,686. Percentage release for the year was $67\frac{1}{2}\%$ of Standard Production.

COCONUTS

15. Interest in this crop was well maintained. Production was somewhat below that of 1926. This, however, was to be expected as 1926 was an unusually good coconut year throughout the Peninsula. The export of copra (532,000 pikuls as compared with 576,000 pikuls in the previous year) was valued at \$5,500,000 approximately. The highly productive coconut areas of the West Coast would benefit considerably from improved drainage. Action is being taken towards this end, natural drainage outlets being cleared of snags, but the process is necessarily slow.

PADI

16. The area recorded as planted with wet padi was 3,757 acres, and a yield of 167,840 gantangs was obtained. There were also 1,393 acres of hill padi, which produced 172,000 gantangs. Padi planting is on the decline. Suitable areas exist, but it is improbable that there will be any extension while other crops such as rubber and coconuts offer so much greater attraction. An attempt is being made to attract settlers to an area in the Endau District which has been proved suitable for wet rice cultivation.

PINEAPPLES

17. The export of preserved and fresh fruits for the year was valued at somewhat more than \$5,000,000. A new and well equipped factory has been opened in the centre of the most important producing area near the 11th mile, Kota Tinggi Road. One of the larger factories was damaged by abnormal floods and was put out of operation for some months. Cases of pines exported were 630,943 as compared with 643,534 in 1926. The decrease was doubtless due to flood effects.

AFRICAN OIL PALM

18. There was a considerable increase effected during the year in the planted area. Large scale plantings now

extend to 5,100 acres, more than double the area under cultivation at the end of 1926. There are many projects for extension of this cultivation in Johore where suitable areas are available for alienation.

OTHER CROPS

19. *Betel Nuts*.—The planted area is estimated at from 7,500 to 8,000 acres, and the export was 171,966 pikuls, valued at \$1,247,677.

Tapioca.—The year's export (130,000 pikuls) was slightly less than that of 1926. About half of the total export comes from the Segamat District. Sixteen factories operated during the year.

Coffee.—The cultivation of coffee is attracting a little increased attention, especially on the West Coast. Tuba is another form of cultivation which is becoming more popular. Gambier does not now attract as it did. There are only about 4,000 acres under gambier now in the State. Nearly half of the export of gambier comes from the Kota-Tinggi District.

Fruit.—Fruit cultivation, other than pineapples, is being extended slowly by small holders who find a ready market for their produce. The expansion of this industry is being encouraged.

DISEASES AND PESTS

20. *Rubber*.—Mouldy Rot remains localised. Outbreaks were reported from ten estates. There were however no new centres of infection.

Pink disease has shown no signs of increase.

Die Back is common in South Johore, but the conclusion has been formed that this is almost entirely due to poor soil conditions.

Literature, in Malay and Chinese, dealing with plant disease was widely distributed during the year by the Inspector of Agriculture.

Coconuts.—There has been no marked increase in the mortality of palms round Benut. No serious outbreaks of Bud Rot have been recorded. The caterpillar *Setora Nitens* did damage in a few localities.

Oil Palm.—The chief pests of oil palm have been rats and porcupines. There is no doubt that cover crops such as *Calopogonium* make it extremely difficult to deal with the rat pest on oil palm estates.

IV.—CHINESE PROTECTORATE AND LABOUR DEPARTMENT

21. The usual work of the supervision of Chinese women and girls was carried out.

22. Six societies were exempted from registration, and 24 were registered. There are now 65 exempted and 152 registered societies in Johore.

Twenty-four Chinese schools were registered (twelve boys' and twelve girls' schools). At the end of the year there were 108 registered schools.

Considerable and increasing activity was displayed during the year by Chinese secret societies.

23. The number of labourers employed in each of the last three years, according to returns furnished to the Controller of Labour, was—

		1926	1927
		—	—
Indians	...	31,272	35,925
Chinese	...	19,006	16,055
Javanese	...	6,248	5,486
Others	...	1,121	801

At the end of the year the supply of labourers appeared to be adequate. There was no excess. Labourers discharged from Estates had little difficulty in finding work elsewhere.

24. Over fifty Indian vernacular schools were maintained on Estates at the end of the year. Thirty of these were registered. The health on Estates was fair, the death rate was very slightly higher than in 1926. Forty-nine Estate Hospitals were maintained. The Government District Hospitals are also largely used for treatment of Estate labourers. Housing and Sanitary conditions on the large estates are generally good.

On the 1st July Mr. H. T. W. OSWELL, Malayan Civil Service, took over charge of the Labour Department from Mr. G. S. HELLINGS, Malayan Civil Service, who, until that date, had combined the functions of Protector of Chinese and Controller of Labour.

V.—COUNCIL OF STATE AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

25. The Council of State met on six occasions and the following Enactments were passed:—

1. The Expropriation of Malay Grant 226 Enactment, 1927.
2. The Johore Military Forces Enactment, 1915, Amendment Enactment, 1927.
3. The Export of Rubber (Restriction) Enactment, 1923, Amendment Enactment, 1927.
4. The Johore European Volunteer Enactment, 1925, Amendment Enactment, 1927.
5. The Colonial Secretary, Straits Settlements, Incorporation Enactment, 1927.
6. The Lady Superior in Penang of the Society of Saint Maur Incorporation Enactment, 1927.
7. The Expropriation of Malay Grants 249 and 250 Enactment, 1927.
8. The Methodist Episcopal Location Board Incorporation Enactment, 1927.
9. The Town Boards Enactment, 1921, Amendment Enactment, 1927.
10. The Court Enactment, 1920, Amendment Enactment, 1927.
11. The Small Offences Enactment, 1913, Amendment Enactment, 1927.
12. The Excise Enactment, 1915, Amendment Enactment, 1927.
13. The Trade and Customs Enactment, 1924, Amendment Enactment, 1927.
14. The Rubber Dealers Enactment, 1921, Amendment Enactment, 1927.
15. The Agricultural Drains Enactment, 1927.
16. The Midwives Enactment, 1927.
17. The Vaccination Enactment, 1914, Amendment Enactment, 1927.
18. The Co-operative Societies Enactment, 1927.
19. The Ports and Shipping Enactment, 1917, Amendment Enactment, 1927.

The Executive Council met on 49 occasions during the year.

VI.—CUSTOMS

26. The total gross revenue collected by the Department was \$7,183,854.

REVENUE BY DISTRICTS, 1923 - 1927

	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927
	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Districts</i>	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Muar ...	740,883	711,486	1,759,927	2,034,360	1,182,827
Batu Pahat ...	548,541	560,800	871,718	904,602	855,000
Kukub ...	229,424	203,357	227,663	270,080	297,700
Johore Bahru	1,658,743	1,561,560	2,282,788	2,694,679	3,610,681
Kota Tinggi ...	346,338	437,600	461,924	606,132	677,641
Endau ...	136,727	145,302	152,599	139,658	139,398
Segamat ...	188,377	210,888	261,514	329,109	420,517
	<u>3,849,033</u>	<u>3,830,993</u>	<u>6,018,133</u>	<u>6,978,710</u>	<u>7,183,854</u>

REVENUE BY PRODUCTIVE GROUPS, 1923 - 1927

	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927
	—	—	—	—	—
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Arecanuts ...	107,539	81,156	82,054	86,187	79,098
Copra ...	220,997	237,523	258,198	269,273	223,398
Gambier ...	31,497	51,990	41,509	17,806	13,067
Pepper ...	808	841	616	—	494
Pineapples ...	—	—	—	42,824	46,357
Rubber ...	1,306,123	1,473,613	3,038,328	3,363,680	3,371,285
Tapioca ...	72,774	79,766	64,503	39,248	22,328
Other Agricultural Produce	82,367	73,782	70,847	30,894	15,986
Forest Produce	83,294	77,281	71,059	79,276	93,055
Minerals ...	324,522	432,618	427,311	372,075	403,116
Marine Produce	16,844	17,331	13,906	15,290	8,222
Miscellaneous Produce ...	1,744	2,653	5,457	7,645	5,030
Alcoholic Liquor ...	435,604	443,112	707,069	909,007	964,326
Tobacco ...	615,885	655,255	972,619	1,313,098	1,456,233
Petroleum ...	97,145	113,000	160,038	322,130	365,520
Matches ...	61,383	59,454	92,632	107,793	114,989
Live Animals	1,847	1,651	44	—	—
Weighing fees	387,307	28,519	83	—	—
Tobacco Licences ...	1,263	1,448	1,870	2,484	1,341
	<u>3,849,033</u>	<u>3,830,993</u>	<u>6,018,133</u>	<u>6,978,710</u>	<u>7,183,854</u>

27. In the following table are shown the proportionate contributions made to the revenue by the various groups of the dutiable articles in the last five years (tobacco licences and weighing fees are not included):—

		PERCENTAGE				
		1923	1924	1925	1926	1927
		—	—	—	—	—
Arecanuts	...	3.11	2.14	1.07	1.24	1.10
Copra	...	6.39	6.25	4.17	3.86	3.11
Pepper	...	0.02	0.02	0.71	—	0.01
Gambier	...	0.91	1.37	0.01	0.26	0.18
Pineapples	...	—	—	—	0.61	0.65
Rubber	...	37.74	38.77	50.55	48.22	46.04
Tapioca	...	2.10	2.10	1.11	0.56	0.31
Other Agricultural Produce	...	2.38	1.94	1.21	0.44	0.22
Minerals	...	9.38	11.38	7.16	5.33	5.61
Forest Produce	...	2.41	2.03	1.22	1.14	1.30
Marine Produce	...	0.49	0.46	0.25	0.22	0.11
Miscellaneous Produce	...	0.05	0.07	0.10	0.11	0.06
Spirits Imports	...	12.59	11.66	11.79	13.03	13.43
Tobacco	...	17.80	17.24	16.22	18.82	20.27
Live Animals	...	0.05	0.04	0.01	—	—
Petroleum	...	2.81	2.97	2.85	4.62	5.09
Matches	...	1.77	1.56	1.57	1.54	1.61
		100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

EXPENDITURE

28. Total expenditure amounted to \$204,948.51 of which Personal Emoluments accounted for \$152,784.78 and Other Charges for \$52,163.73. The increase over the 1926 figures of \$170,355.39 is largely accounted for by additional expenditure incurred in strengthening the Preventive Branch.

PREVENTIVE BRANCH

29. In August attention was drawn somewhat urgently to the smuggling of rubber from Johore and it was decided by the Government to strengthen the Customs Department by borrowing four European Officers from the Federated Malay States Customs staff. Drastic reduction was made in the number of licensed Rubber Dealers (who in many localities provided cover for smugglers). A public proclamation was issued by His Highness the Sultan and was read at mosques and public places throughout the State, public meetings having been called for that purpose. A new and more facile system of rewards for information was introduced. An Advisory Committee was appointed to help in dealing

with smuggling and three new launches for inshore preventive work were purchased. By new legislation the maximum term of imprisonment for smuggling offences was raised from six months to two years; the powers of officers of the Preventive Branch were strengthened and the system of licensing boats was revised. The intensive campaign had good results and by the end of the year the Preventive Branch had established control. Six motor boats were captured and the best of them are now used for preventive purposes.

There has been, in the past, extensive smuggling into Johore of chandu, matches and other dutiable goods. Rubber Restriction has shown the way to the smuggling industry and its abrogation, when it comes, will by no means mean that the Preventive Branch may cease from, or even diminish, its activities. For offences not connected with rubber the Preventive Branch prosecuted 591 cases during the year and took 654 prisoners.

VII.—CHANDU DEPARTMENT

30. This Department is in charge of the Superintendent, Chandu Monopoly, who is also Commissioner of Trade and Customs. He is assisted by one European Inspector of Chandu Shops, the remainder of the staff consisting of Malays and Chinese.

31. The amount of chandu sold in 1927 was 500,500 tahils, of which 500,299 tahils were sold direct to the public from Government shops, and 201 tahils to Licensees. The total sales in 1925 were 423,659 tahils and in 1926 576,213 tahils. The nett revenue from the sale of chandu was \$5,058,798 and from licences \$12.

32. There are 39 shops for retail sale "off" and 18 "on" shops owned by the Government.

Two temporary licences were issued for shops at Segamat where no suitable premises for "on" shops were available during 1927. No other licences were issued.

The Preventive Branch prosecuted 306 cases of offences under the Opium and Chandu Enactment. In 267 cases convictions were obtained.

VIII — EDUCATION

VERNACULAR SCHOOLS

33. Eighty-one Boys' Schools, 10 Girls' Schools and 31 Religious Schools were maintained with a total enrolment of 9,707 and 285 teachers. The average attendance was 80.3

per cent of enrolment. Twenty-five of the school buildings are still temporary structures.

The Malay Training College had an enrolment of 40 with 3 teachers.

34. ENGLISH SCHOOLS

Schools	Enrolment	Learning English	Masters	Percentage of attendance
—	—	—	—	—
English College ...	57	57	6	96.1
Bukit Zaharah ...	375	375	23	94.77
Muar ..	347	347	14	93.6
Batu Pahat ...	192	192	12	95.33
Segamat ...	54	54	3	93.6
	<hr/> 1,025 <hr/>	<hr/> 1,025 <hr/>	<hr/> 58 <hr/>	<hr/> — <hr/>

The corresponding totals for 1926 were:—

Enrolment 1,617; Learning English 1,294; Masters 70.

During the year the vernacular sides of the schools at Bukit Zaharah and Batu Pahat were definitely separated therefrom. This change accounts for the difference in total enrolment.

35. Owing to the small number of Cambridge candidates in the out-station schools, all candidates were concentrated at Bukit Zaharah. The results of the 1926 Cambridge examination (received in March) were as follows:—

School Certificate ...	3	passed out of	7
Malayan Certificate ...	2	„	7
Junior under 16 ...	2	„	5
Junior over 16 ...	2	„	5

For the 1927 examinations there were only four candidates in the Senior and seven in the Junior Division.

36. The Arab Football Cup, for which the Johore English Schools compete annually, was won by the English College.

37. The Government maintains two Malay students at Hong Kong University in the engineering school and three more advanced students in England, two of whom are studying law, and one engineering.

38. The Board of Education met on 15 occasions.

39. Under the new scheme for grants-in-aid to Tamil schools Mr. VANKATA RAMAN was appointed Inspector. Twenty-six schools have been registered with a total enrolment of 446 pupils. There are thirty masters.

By the courtesy of the Director of Education, Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States, five Johore students have been attached to Singapore schools for Normal Training. A Hostel has been obtained and furnished in Singapore for the accommodation of these students.

IX.—FORESTS

EXPLORATION

40. A short examination of the land lying behind Labis was made and this area will be included in the Ma'okil reserve if it materialises. The forest here has contained very fine Chengal mixed with a large amount of Keruing and a moderate amount of Seraya and Meranti, but most of the large Chengal has been worked out.

A further inspection of the above area was undertaken from the Muar-Yong Peng Road, for a distance of from 5 to 7 miles from the road.

General inspection was also undertaken behind Sengkang of the Muar-Labis Road where the remains of some very fine Resak forest was found.

RESERVES

41. The Banang Reserve of 2,100 acres in Batu Pahat District was finally notified in January, 1927.

An area of 77,440 acres lying between Rengam Reserve, Gunong Belumut and the Kluang-Mersing Road was preliminarily notified during November. This area contains fine Chengal and Kapur forest.

EXPLOITATION

42.—(a) *Timber*.—The market price of timber remained high until towards the end of the year when a slight reduction took place, due, it is said, to the increasing use of reinforced concrete in Singapore.

The total amount of timber extracted during the year was 55,825 tons compared to 41,962 tons in 1926, an increase of 13,863 tons.

(b) *Firewood and Charcoal*.—The outturn of firewood for the year was 70,186 tons as compared with 42,732 tons in 1926, an increase of 27,454 tons.

The outturn of charcoal was 2,221 tons as compared with 1,503 in 1926, an increase of 718 tons.

(c) *Minor produce*.—No damar was collected departmentally during the year.

The quantity collected under licence showed a considerable increase. The total output was 376 tons as compared with 103 tons in 1926.

There was a trifling decrease in the outturn of rotans.

The revenue for the year amounted to \$152,996 compared with \$132,740 in 1926.

X.—GAME WARDEN

43. This department, which was instituted in 1925, consisted of a Game Warden and six Rangers, stationed at Kluang. The expenditure amounted to \$10,275. Seventeen elephants found destroying crops and plantations were shot, and eighteen cases were brought under the "Wild Animals and Birds Protection Enactment". One man-eating tiger was shot by the Warden.

Fifty-five passes to destroy big game infesting estates were issued during the year.

XI.—JUDICIAL SUPREME COURT

44. Ninety-five criminal cases and 50 criminal appeals were registered. Four Criminal Assizes were held at Johore Bahru, four at Muar and three at Batu Pahat.

One hundred and seventy-eight civil suits, 14 civil appeals, 174 administration suits and 129 miscellaneous were registered.

45. The Court of Appeal sat on five occasions.

MAGISTRATES' COURT

46. A compilation of the return of cases is given:—

			<i>Criminal</i>	<i>Civil</i>
			—	—
Johore	...	...	3,320	403
Kota Tinggi	...	...	720	114
Kukub (including Benut)	...	...	592	66
Muar	...	...	3,157	499
Batu Pahat	...	...	1,800	408
Endau	...	...	345	40
Segamat	...	...	903	191
Kluang	...	...	876	82
			<hr/>	<hr/>
			11,713	1,803
			<hr/>	<hr/>

The Assistant Adviser, Kota Tinggi, visited Pengerang once a fortnight and held Court there.

The Kluang Court was conducted by the Second Assistant Adviser, Batu Pahat.

47. Progress has been made in construction of the new Law Courts at Johore Bahru and Muar. These buildings which will be completed in 1928 will supply a long felt want. The buildings now in use are by no means suitable.

48. Mr. JUSTICE REAY, Puisne Judge, Straits Settlements, continued to act as Judge during the year.

49. The new appointment of Registrar and Deputy Public Prosecutor was filled by Mr. R. MOOR, Malayan Civil Service. The duties of Assistant Registrar in each District were performed by the Assistant Advisers and in Mersing by Inche AWANG BIN OMAR.

XII.—LAND

50. The revenue for 1926 and 1927 was as follows:—

	1926	1927
	—	—
	\$	\$
<i>Rents—</i>		
Land Rents, Recurrent ...	1,966,027	2,170,588
Land Rents, Annual Licences ...	24,588	36,292
Mining Rents ...	12,179	11,306
Rents of Government Plantation	363	239
<i>Licences—</i>		
Gravel, Stone, etc. ...	2,968	2,127
Mining ...	Nil	50
Prospecting ...	7,337	5,621
<i>Fees—</i>		
Miscellaneous ...	6,015	8,304
Notices, Warrants, etc. ...	8,996	11,585
Registration of Titles, etc. ...	21,490	20,104
Survey and Demarcation ...	114,452	120,304
Total ...	2,164,415	2,386,520

	1926	1927
	—	—
	\$	\$
<i>Land Sales—</i>		
Premium on Agricultural Land	689,608	1,125,309
Premium on Mining Land ...	9,470	7,910
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total ...	699,078	1,133,219
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Other sums collected in 1926 and 1927 but not credited as land revenue were—

	\$	\$
<i>Fees—</i>		
Rubber Dealers Enactment ...	124,966	124,681
Burials Enactment ...	600	500
Mineral Ores Enactment ...	—	600
Sale of Boundary Marks ...	8,139	9,950
Sale of Plans ...	2,684	2,365
Miscellaneous ...	9,592	832
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total ...	145,981	138,928
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Grand total ...	3,009,474	3,658,667
	<hr/>	<hr/>

51. Owing to short Survey Staff it was found necessary to close application books for land in March.

REGISTRATION

52. Registration work in the office of the Commissioner of Lands and Mines is shown in the following table:—

LAND ENACTMENT

	1926	1927
	—	—
Number of Grants registered ...	982	983
Number of transfers registered ...	1,732	1,297
Number of charges registered ...	531	737
Other transactions ...	1,304	1,179

MINING ENACTMENT

			1926	1927
			—	—
Mining Leases issued	...	...	10	2
Mining Certificates issued	...	...	25	28
Prospecting Licences	...	...	51	62
Other transactions	...	...	24	18
Value of stamps affixed on instruments	...	...	\$119,280	\$92,344

53. In connection with the Mukim Registers and Surat Sementara under Land Rule 7 the following transactions were registered:—

			1926	1927
			—	—
Mukim Registers	...	...	2,683	2,126
Surat Sementara	...	...	8,079	6,915
Miscellaneous transactions	...	...	1,062	2,415
Total	...	...	<u>11,824</u>	<u>11,456</u>

MUKIM REGISTERS

54. Except in the Segamat and Batu Pahat Districts little progress was made towards completion of Mukim Registers. For the very large arrears of work which have to be tackled in Johore the Survey Staff is short, competent Malay Subordinate Surveyors being notably lacking.

GENERAL

55. The application books for State Land were closed early in the year for all Districts except Endau. There is much confusion relative to unsatisfied applications for land and a great deal of hard work is before the Land Office. During the past five years the urgency of Rubber Restriction has prevented systematic work by Land Offices in the direction of alienation under permanent title.

56. At the close of the year the Register of Foreign Companies showed that 135 such companies were in operation in the State.

57. The total area of land alienated on the 1st January, 1928 was 1,044,444 acres. This includes a total area of 337,000 acres occupied under approved applications.

XIII.—MARINE

58. The total number and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared at all Ports of the State during the year was as follows:—

	VESSELS ENTERED		VESSELS CLEARED	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Tonnage</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Tonnage</i>
Ocean-going steamers ...	71	216,231	71	216,231
Coasting steamers ...	3,973	199,489	3,973	199,487
Sailing vessels ...	8,052	160,392	8,118	158,993

These figures show a total increase of 66,667 tons entered and cleared as compared with 1926.

There was again a large increase in the number and tonnage of Japanese ocean-going steamers calling at Batu Pahat to load iron-ore. These vessels load their cargo from lighters at the entrance of the river, and thus no wharf dues are paid.

59. The growth of the maritime trade of the State during the last five years is shown as follows:—

<i>Total tonnage entered</i>			<i>Total tonnage cleared</i>		
—			—		
1923 ...	356,393	gross tons	355,692	gross tons	
1924 ...	401,878½	„ „	403,245½	„ „	
1925 ...	510,835	„ „	511,928	„ „	
1926 ...	544,670¼	„ „	539,487¼	„ „	
1927 ...	576,111½	„ „	574,712½	„ „	

REVENUE

60. The total Revenue received by the Marine Department from all sources during 1927 was \$50,570.41 as compared with \$46,339.52 in 1926, an increase of \$4,230.89.

Boat and fishing licences show a substantial increase over the previous year.

LIGHTS AND BUOYS

61. All lights and buoys were maintained in good condition.

The steel structure of the outer light at Kuala Benut was renewed. A new A. G. A. flashing light similar to those at Benut and Pontian was erected at Kuala Senggarang. The Kuala Muar lightbuoy was thoroughly overhauled and replaced in position, and the buoys marking shoals in Muar River were renewed. The erection of the proposed lighthouse on Tanjong Tenggaraoh, which has been under consideration, was approved and the work will be put in hand during the present year. This lighthouse has long been needed.

GOVERNMENT WHARVES

62. The Government wharf at Kukub was re-constructed, and extensions and improvements to the Muar wharves and Godowns were made with resulting improvements in berthing vessels and dealing with cargo. Work was also started on the extension to the Government wharf at Batu Pahat.

BOAT LICENCES

63. In order to tighten up the Law regarding licensing of boats, with a view to the prevention of smuggling, the Ports and Shipping Enactment was amended in 1927. Formerly only such boats as plied for hire were required to be licensed. The amendment provides for the licensing of all boats over 15 feet in length, gives additional powers to the Port Officer to confiscate unlicensed boats, and makes it unlawful to construct boats with double bottoms or to remove or alter any number or mark placed upon a boat for identification purposes. The Harbour Masters at Johore Bahru, Batu Pahat and Muar made extensive searches in all rivers and parits along the coast with a result that a large number of unlicensed boats were found and dealt with.

GENERAL

64. Work was commenced in November, 1927, on dredging the entrance to Sungei Segget, Johore Bahru which had silted up badly since the completion of the Causeway in 1923. A long "bar" of mud had formed, completely blocking the channel leading to the Lock. The Singapore Harbour Board dredging plant was hired and the greater part of the work was completed before the end of the year. The cost of this work is being shared by the Federated Malay States, Straits Settlements and Johore.

XIV.—MEDICAL

VITAL STATISTICS

65. The number of births registered was 16,324 compared with 14,883 in 1926. The number of deaths registered was 15,142 against 12,740 in 1926. On an estimated population

of 332,337 the birth-rate was 50.35 per mille, and the death-rate 46.71 per mille, the corresponding rates for 1926 being 46.07 and 39.44. The highest birth-rate was in the Batu Pahat District (69.41). The lowest in the Endau District (29.04). The population of the Batu Pahat District is largely composed of immigrant Malays. Endau District contains most of the Chinese tin mining population.

66. The infantile mortality was 255.76 per mille as against 213.26 per mille in 1926. Deaths from convulsions amounted to 3,096.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES

67. The following table gives statistics of Zymotic diseases and deaths resulting therefrom during the year:—

<i>Disease</i>			<i>Cases</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
—			—	—
Plague	...	...	—	—
Cholera	...	...	5	4
Small-pox	...	...	26	8
Chicken-pox	...	...	62	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...	...	3	2
Measles (including German Measles)	...	...	168	1
Enteric Fever	...	...	68	21
Erysipelas	...	...	20	4
Acute Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	2	2

SPECIAL DISEASES

68. *Ankylostomiasis*.—Nine thousand seven hundred and twenty-four cases with 163 deaths. In 1926 there were 6,050 cases with 93 deaths.

Beri-beri.—Two thousand one hundred and fifty-nine cases with 272 deaths. In 1926 there were 1,508 cases with 215 deaths.

Dysentery.—Four thousand two hundred and fifty-seven cases with 243 deaths. In 1926 there were 3,203 cases with 291 deaths.

Diarrhoea.—Three thousand and seventy-one cases with 174 deaths. In 1926 there were 2,715 cases with 117 deaths.

Malarial Fever.—Forty-seven thousand seven hundred and thirty-seven cases with 1,314 deaths. In 1926 there were 39,839 cases with 800 deaths.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—Eight hundred cases with 286 deaths. In 1926 there were 848 cases with 251 deaths.

Pneumonia.—Six hundred and thirty-nine cases with 304 deaths.

Yaws.—The total number of injections given in Government Hospitals was 3,010, of which 2,048 were for new, and 962 for old cases. The number of injections in 1926 was 3,579.

HOSPITALS

69. The existing Government Hospitals were maintained. Admissions were 32,147 compared with 27,489 in 1926. On the 31st December, 1926 there were 1,243 patients remaining, and of the total 27,596 were discharged, 32 were transferred, 308 absconded, 2,742 died, and 1,469 remained at the end of the year. The percentage of deaths to the total treated was 8.53.

OUT-PATIENTS

The number of out-patients treated at the various stations was 39,362, the attendances being 80,077. The figures for the previous year were 31,586 and 46,395.

MATERNITY WARDS

70. Maternity cases admitted to Government Hospitals were 294 as against 284 in 1926 while 613 cases were treated in their own homes, compared with 311 in 1926. During the year 37 certified midwives were practising in the State, and 10 Probationers were undergoing training.

MENTAL HOSPITAL

71. The number of patients remaining on the 31st December, 1926, was 221, and there were 124 admissions in 1927, making a total of 345. Of these 52 were discharged, 2 were transferred, 3 absconded, 48 died, and 240 (194 males and 46 females) remained at the close of the year.

LEPER ASYLUM

72. There were 73 lepers in the Asylum at the end of the year, and 9 females in the camp at Singapore. Forty-two were receiving the Tai Fong Chee treatment, and it is stated that 20 of them showed signs of slight improvement.

VACCINATIONS

73. The number of vaccinations performed during the year was 22,812, compared with 12,021 in 1926.

METEOROLOGICAL

74. *Rainfall*.—The highest rainfall for the year was recorded at Sungei Burong Estate, Kukub District, 160.94 inches and the lowest at Tambang Estate, Segamat District 80.02 inches.

The following observations were made at Government Hospitals:—

Johore Bahru (South)	...	...	104.67 inches
Kota Tinggi (South-east)	...	...	129.10 „
Kukub (South-west)	...	...	107.18 „
Batu Pahat (West)	...	...	97.26 „
Kluang (Central)	...	...	133.42 „
Mersing (East) , ...	...	...	151.22 „
Muar (North-west)	...	...	105.94 „
Segamat (North-east)	...	...	119.84 „

Temperature.—The highest maximum temperature recorded was 98° F. at Kukub on the 5th June, and the lowest minimum 68° F. at Kota Tinggi Hospital on the 21st April.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

75. The general health of the State has been satisfactory. There were six outbreaks of small-pox which yielded at once to control and served to insure a very complete vaccination of the whole population.

There was a serious outbreak of beri-beri in the Segamat District in November. There were less serious outbreaks of the same disease in the Endau District in September and October. Parboiled rice was distributed free and instruction was given to the population by a Malay Apothecary with the result that conditions rapidly improved. At the end of the year there were no new cases.

Five deaths occurred from cholera early in the year. These were the result of an epidemic mentioned in last year's report.

During the year a sum of \$52,840 was spent by the Anti-Malarial Board on oiling, draining and other such measures. Doubtless as a result of the floods of December and January there was a considerable increase in the incidence of Malaria.

ESTATES

76. There are 26 qualified medical practitioners resident in the State and 10 more who, though residing outside, practise within the State. The minimum number of visits to Estates is fixed by the Government and depends on the size of the Estate and its sick rate.

The Government Health Officers visited 95 Estates during the year and made many recommendations, to which effect was in every case given, for the improvement of Estate sanitation.

FINANCIAL

77. The expenditure on Personal Emoluments and Other Charges came to \$777,765, compared with \$664,543 in 1926. Revenue amounted to \$69,522.

XV.—MILITARY

78. The total strength of the Forces at the end of the year was 632, being 24 short of the authorised strength. The signal section has increased to 13, and is making progress. Discipline is reported to be fair, and health good except at Mersing where there was an outbreak of beri-beri following the floods.

A detachment of the Johore Military Forces, by invitation of His Excellency the General Officer Commanding, Malaya, took part in the Parade held at Singapore in honour of His Majesty the King's Birthday.

Considerable progress was made with the Lewis Gun. At the Straits Settlements Volunteer Corps Rifle meeting the Lewis Gun Section of the Johore Military Forces won the second prize.

Musketry again showed a marked improvement. Teams competed with success at six meetings. At the Malaya Command Rifle meeting held at Kuala Lumpur Major YAHYA, Adjutant, Johore Military Forces, won the Rifle Championship Cup of Malaya.

The Johore Volunteer Forces were maintained at practically full strength. There are contingents at Johore Bahru, Muar, Batu Pahat and Mersing, and the report of their progress is generally satisfactory. The Signal section shows promise. Increased attention is being given to musketry.

JOHORE VOLUNTEER RIFLES

79. During the year the Corps made considerable progress in efficiency. Credit is due to the Officer Commanding, Major F. E. DAVIES, M.C.; to Captain S. J. W. GOOCH who commanded while Major DAVIES was on leave and to energetic Platoon Commanders. From the 1st January, 1928, the Corps became the Johore Volunteer Engineers. Engineer training started before the end of the year. Success in making the transitional changes is due to Captain T. PRINCE, the Adjutant.

The strength of the Unit rose to 9 officers and 252 other ranks as compared with 10 officers and 222 other ranks in 1926. Owing to increase of numbers in Central Johore it was found desirable to split the Central Johore Company into two with centres at Kluang and Rengam.

Excluding Volunteers on leave or auxiliary service 85% of the Unit were efficient. This is the highest standard yet reached by the Unit and reflects credit on all concerned. In a country where communications are as difficult as they are in Johore this is a high standard—which it is hoped to improve.

XVI.—MINES

80. The Mines Department consists of a Warden of Mines, an Inspector and two Overseers.

81. The expenditure for the year amounted to \$17,105 against an estimate of \$19,102 and an expenditure of \$17,620 in 1926.

82. The total revenue derived from mining (including premia and rents) amounted to \$428,603 against \$393,444 in 1926, an increase of \$35,159.

Details are as follows:—

	1926	1927
	—	—
	\$	\$
<i>Export duty on—</i>		
(i) Tin-ore ...	238,532	220,928
(ii) Iron-ore ...	125,050	181,364
(iii) China Clay ...	377	824
Premia on Leases ...	9,470	7,910
Rents on Leases ...	12,178	11,306
<i>Licences—</i>		
(i) Prospecting ...	7,337	5,621
(ii) Ore Buyers ...	500	600
(iii) Individual ...	—	50
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	393,444	428,603
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The Warden of Mines carried out the duties of 1st Magistrate, Johore Bahru, in addition to his own throughout the year.

83. Minerals to the value of \$4,419,181 were exported and paid \$403,116 in duty: an increase of \$642,280 in value and \$39,157 in duty.

84. *Tin Ore*.—Sixteen thousand three hundred and seventy-four pikuls were exported against 17,453 pikuls in 1926—an apparent decrease of 1,079 pikuls. This is almost certainly due to evasion of customs duty by certain exporters which at the date of writing this report is under investigation.

85. *Iron Ore*.—Four hundred and nine thousand two hundred and forty-one tons of hæmatite were exported against 250,100 tons: an increase of 159,141. The average output for the last 3 months of the year was just under 50,000 tons a month.

86. *China Clay*.—Eight hundred and twenty-four tons were exported against 337, an increase of 487 tons. In addition to being used in the manufacture of rubber goods in Singapore it is exported to Batavia for use in the manufacture of paper.

87. Labour was fairly plentiful: there was an increase of 700 in the total labour force: 400 in the iron mines, 300 in the tin mines.

The total labour force employed amounted to 3,641 persons. Machinery of 719 H.P. was in use—the nett result being a labour force and machinery equivalent to 9,393 units.

88. Details are—

(i) Open Cast Mines	...	...	3,242
Lampan	...	...	389
Under ground	...	...	10
(ii) Working on Tribute	...	...	1,599
,, ,, Wages	...	...	501
,, ,, Contract	...	...	1,541
(iii) Working in Tin Mines	...	...	2,336
,, ,, Iron Mines	...	...	1,289
,, ,, China Clay	...	...	16

89. Gravel pump installations are in use at Jemaluang: suction dredges in the Tingkil valley: compressed air plant in the iron mines.

The difficulty of transport prevents any extensive use of machinery.

90. Twelve thousand seven hundred and thirty-five acres were held under mining title at the end of the year—a decrease of 378 acres: due to the surrender of worked out lands.

91. Sixty-two Prospecting licences covering 26,382 acres were issued against 51 covering 39,214 acres in 1926.

XVII.—POLICE

92. The strength of the Force was on the 31st December, 1,060 all ranks, the approved establishment being 1,126.

93. At the close of the year there were 63 Police Stations, of which 12 are headquarters of Police Districts. The new Police Head Office at Johore Bahru was completed and ready for occupation at the end of the year. A new Police Station and barracks were completed at Pasir Gudang. Additional barracks were built at Muar. A new Police Station (temporary) was opened at Jeram Choh. Telephone extensions were effected to six stations hitherto unconnected.

RECRUITMENT AND DISCIPLINE

94. During the year 122 Malays and 35 Sikhs were enlisted. There were 256 Malay and 44 Sikh applicants.

95. The discipline was not very satisfactory, there being 1,022 offences against 767 in 1926, 622 being cases of absence from duty.

HEALTH

96. Four hundred and seven members of the force were admitted to the Hospital and 3,743 were treated as out-patients. There were 6 deaths. Ten men were discharged as medically unfit.

CRIME

97. The total number of offences of all kinds reported was 14,954 compared with 13,225 in 1926.

The following table shows the main headings of crime for the past three years :—

		1925	1926	1927
		—	—	—
Murder and Homicide	...	44	50	69
Gang-robbery	...	7	14	17
Robbery	...	36	26	78
House-breaking	...	57	74	94
Thefts (over \$100)	...	170	174	164
Counterfeit coin and Stamps	...	3	—	10
Unlawful Societies	...	15	14	4

There was a marked improvement in the discovery of criminals and in the number of successful prosecutions before the Courts.

98. Unlawful Societies still constitute a serious menace. One hundred and twenty-six persons were banished from the State as compared with 67 in 1926. Fifty-one Chinese and four of other nationalities were repatriated as vagrants.

FIREARMS

99. Three thousand six hundred and thirty-nine firearms were registered against 3,476 in 1926.

WEIGHT AND MEASURES

100. Nine thousand six hundred and seventy-four weights and measures were verified by the Police Department, the work being under the control of a Malay Inspector.

MOTOR CARS AND DRIVERS

101. The registration of Traction Engines and Motor Cars is in the hands of the Town Boards at Johore Bahru, Muar, Batu Pahat, Mersing and Segamat. The Chief Police Officers at Johore Bahru, Muar and Batu Pahat continued to license drivers under the Enactment. Twenty-three certificates were cancelled by the Licensing Officers and 26 were suspended for varying periods.

NOXIOUS ANIMALS

102. Twelve tigers, 1 leopard and 28 crocodiles were destroyed and handed over to the Police. The number of persons reported killed by noxious animals was 62, 44 by tigers, 15 by crocodiles, 1 by a snake and 2 by elephants.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

103. The expenditure on the Police was \$690,284 compared with \$556,351 in 1926 while the revenue collected by the Department amounted to \$52,656.

XVIII.—POST OFFICE

104. A comparison of the business done during the past three years is as follows:—

	1925	1926	1927
	—	—	—
Letters, papers and parcels received	4,180,337	4,613,572	4,200,067
Letters, papers and parcels despatched	2,226,018	3,117,096	2,800,466
Value of Money Orders issued	\$583,031	\$875,939	\$872,940
Value of Money Orders paid	\$135,597	\$212,842	\$235,644
The revenue was \$238,717 as against \$192,515 in 1926.			
The expenditure was \$153,119 against \$131,000.			

TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES

105. The total mileage under control of the Chief Telegraph Engineer and maintained by the Johore Government is 1,227 miles and 52 chains.

There were at the end of 1927 thirteen telephone exchanges and nine sub-exchanges. Much valuable work was done during the year to improve service. The number of telephone stations was increased by 127, making 519 in all. Thirty-eight miles of pole line were added during the year. Six outlying Police Stations were connected. Underground cable was laid at Batu Pahat, Muar and Bukit Pasir.

XIX.—PRISONS

PRISON POPULATION

106. Admissions to the two State Prisons, Johore Bahru and Muar totalled 1,774 as against 1,053 in 1926.

The daily average numbers for 1926 and 1927 are shown in the following table:—

	1926		1927	
	Johore Bahru	Muar	Johore Bahru	Muar
	—	—	—	—
Civil Prisoners ...	10·09	11·52	11·30	14·13
Convicted Prisoners	269·20	109·07	383·58	143·39

Convicted Prisoners in the State Prisons numbered as follows:—

	<i>Johore Bahru</i>	<i>Muar</i>
Remaining on 1st January, 1927 ...	238	115
Admitted during 1927 ...	995	779
Total ...	1,233	894
Released during 1927 ...	851	541
Transferred ...	3	233
Died ...	6	2
Executed ...	10	—
Remaining on 31st December, 1927	363	118
Total ...	1,233	894

Classification of Prisoners on 31st December, 1927.

	<i>Johore Bahru</i>	<i>Muar</i>	<i>Total</i>
Long Sentence ...	126	—	126
Short Sentence ...	237	118	355
Prisoners on Remand ...	16	23	39
Awaiting Banishment ...	58	—	58
Detained during His Highness's Pleasure ...	4	—	4
Total ...	441	141	582

HEALTH

107. There were 6 deaths in the Prison Hospital at Johore Bahru. ...

The average daily number in hospital was—

Johore Bahru ...	14.05
Muar ...	6.99

DISCIPLINE

108. Two hundred and twenty-two offences by prisoners were dealt with and fourteen floggings were inflicted. There were no serious disorders in either prison.

LABOUR

109. At Johore Bahru an average of 135 prisoners was engaged by the Public Works Department on extramural labour, including extensive reclamation operations at Sungei Chat.

Prisoners undergoing hard labour were also employed in baking, carpentering, chick-making, tailoring, husk-beating, making of baskets, rattan chairs and coir-mats, laundry work and cooking inside the prison.

At Muar the daily average number of prisoners engaged on extramural work was 58.95. Useful work was done for the Public Works Department and a large amount of stone was broken for road metal.

RECIDIVISM

110. Of the prisoners admitted during the year 37 had one, 8 two and 7 three or more previous convictions.

EXECUTIONS

111. Ten executions were carried out at Johore Bahru.

STAFF

112. The European Staff at Johore Bahru was maintained at full strength and included, in addition to the Inspector of Prisons, the Gaoler and four Warders.

The Gaol in Muar was in charge of the Assistant Adviser as District Superintendent and an European Gaoler and a Warder.

EXPENDITURE

113. The expenditure on the maintenance of the Johore Bahru Prison amounted to \$165,311 against \$135,659 in 1926. The expenditure at Muar was \$56,354 against \$42,722 in 1926. The increase in each case was due to higher musters.

REVENUE

114. A sum of \$10,697 was received from the laundry, bakery and workshops at Johore Bahru, and \$476 was collected at Muar.

VAGRANT WARDS

115. The two State Prisons at Johore Bahru and Muar are also vagrant wards under the Vagrancy Enactment, 1921. Seventy-nine vagrants were admitted and nineteen remained at the end of the year. Of the vagrants admitted 92.4 per cent were Chinese.

XX.—PUBLIC WORKS

116. The provision and expenditure during the year were—

			\$
Provision	...	...	8,510,909
Expenditure	...	...	6,899,178

The expenditure exceeded that of 1926 by \$1,608,166. The cost of supervision was $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent of the total expenditure.

WORKS AND BUILDINGS

117. The expenditure was as follows:—

			\$
Annually Recurrent	...	...	199,889
Special Services	...	...	2,010,485

Under Special Services anti-malarial work was carried out in the Johore Bahru, Endau and Segamat Districts at a cost of over \$33,000.

118. For the purpose of combating flooding of the Kota Tinggi Road considerable sums were spent in clearing the Tiram River. A snagging barge was put to work with a European in charge.

The new Central Police Station at Johore Bahru was completed. Good progress was made with the new Law Courts and the new house for the General Adviser. At Muar a new Rest House was completed and the new Law Courts commenced. Considerable improvements were effected in wharfage facilities. Necessary additions were made to Wards at the Muar and Tangkak hospitals. At Batu Pahat a new market was erected at a cost of \$42,000. A sum of \$54,000 was spent on quarters for Assistant School Masters, Clerks and Subordinate Officers. A new Godown with extension of the Government wharf was commenced. Four new vernacular schools were completed and there were several additions made to hospital accommodation throughout the State.

ROADS, STREETS AND BRIDGES

119. The provision and expenditure during the year were as follows:—

ANNUALLY RECURRENT		SPECIAL SERVICES	
<i>Provision</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Provision</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>
—	—	—	—
\$	\$	\$	\$
984,000	970,509	1,873,914	1,633,336
TOWN ROADS		COUNTRY ROADS	
<i>Metalled</i>		<i>Metalled</i>	
—		—	
Johore Bahru ...	54·64	...	94·18
Segamat ...	7·12	...	81·40
Kota Tinggi ...	4·57	...	46·23
Kluang ...	4·56	...	87·40
Muar ...	23·82	...	117·12
Batu Pahat ...	15·07	...	68·27
Endau ...	2·66	...	34·51
Total ...	115·27	...	531·00
			24·7

120. The total length of roads upkept was 671 miles at a cost of \$1,348 per mile compared with a cost of \$1,436 per mile in 1926.

121. Traffic census shews that the main Town Roads in Johore Bahru carry approximately 4,000 tons a day. A census taken near Scudai on the Trunk Road gave 1,700 tons a day.

SPECIAL SERVICES

ROAD EXTENSION SCHEME

122. At the end of 1926 there were 291½ miles open to traffic, and during 1927 an additional 3½ miles were opened.

The total expenditure during the year was \$248,069 making a total since 1911 of \$5,383,216.

During 1927 work was continued on Section 12 (Ayer Hitam—Muar) and Section 18 (Gunong Pulai—Pontian Kechil). The Road Extension Scheme will be complete when

the roads now under construction from Ayer Hitam to Muar and from Gunong Pulai to Pontian Kechil are through. Progress on the first mentioned of these roads is necessarily slow at the present stage. From the Ayer Hitam side the road is now metalled for nineteen miles. Construction has reached the Simpang Kiri river. Between the Simpang Kiri and the Muar District boundary the trace runs through bad swamp and for filling purposes mechanical haulage is necessarily employed over this section. Good progress was made during the year, work being done efficiently though of necessity at a high cost. Haulage will eventually be as far as five miles. The country is so bad that it has been found necessary to construct several miles of very deep drains through jungles before commencing earthwork.

On the Pulai—Pontian Kechil section 2 miles of earthwork were completed and $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles metalled and opened to traffic. A length of 6 miles remains for construction. This portion of the trace goes through heavy peat and swamp and progress will be slow.

NEW ROADS

123. The expenditure was \$347,650.

Johore Bahru District.—Plintong road. The road was completed and opened to traffic as far as Plintong village. Plintong-Masai road. This is a continuation of the Plintong road. Two miles of earthwork were completed and half a mile metalled.

Muar District.—Progress was made with the Muar-Labis Road and the Serom and Ayer Hitam Road.

Segamat District.—The road from Batu Anam to Buloh Kasap was completed and opened to traffic. The Tenang-Labis Road was opened for light traffic and three miles of earthwork were completed on the Labis-Yong Peng Road.

Batu Pahat District.—Metalling was completed on the Senggarang-Benut road for a distance of nine miles. Eight bridges and several culverts were put in. This road is now practically complete from Batu Pahat to the Benut river, a distance of 30 miles.

Of the Mengkibol-Kluang road a distance of $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles was metalled.

124. A contract for resurfacing 10 miles of the Johore Bahru-Batu Pahat road was let at an approximate price of \$24,700 a mile. On Bitumen surfacing a sum of \$45,507 was spent.

GENERAL

125. The Muar-Batu Pahat road was strengthened and resurfaced over a total length of five miles. This road, which lies on coast mud may be expected to need strengthening periodically.

A sum of \$66,600 was spent in replacing temporary by permanent bridges.

Reinforced concrete bridges were completed and opened to traffic across the Segamat River at Segamat and the Muar River at Buloh Kasap.

Satisfactory progress was made with the installation of a large stone crushing plant at the Bukit Mor quarry, Muar. Similar plants are in process of erection at quarries in the Batu Pahat and Endau Districts.

On the Scudai road in the Johore Bahru District sums totalling nearly \$130,000 were spent on road improvement up to the 5th mile and in protective measures near the Scudai creek.

Very considerable and satisfactory progress was made in improving the water supply at Muar, Kluang and Segamat. The Johore Bahru water supply scheme has not gone ahead as quickly as expected. Delay was due to matters outside the control of the Johore Government.

ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT

126. The Johore Bahru Power Station functioned satisfactorily during the year, though working to the limit of its capacity. The accounts shew a profit of \$22,639.

Progress on the new Power Station was good. At the end of the year nearly all the new plant had arrived. The expenditure was \$194,950.

XXI.—SURVEYS

127. The average effective strength of the staff throughout the year was 76 including the Superintendent and eight European Surveyors.

The total expenditure of the Survey Department was \$266,665 as compared with \$257,507 in 1926. The total revenue was \$132,125. A total area of 55,256 acres was surveyed in 6,046 lots. The average cost was 93 cents a chain.

For location of rivers compass traverse of 61 miles was made.

Documents of title prepared for issue were 952 duplicate titles and 4,764 mukim extracts.

At the end of the year there were with the Survey Office unsatisfied requisitions for survey of 179,794 acres in 25,571 lots. The total area of occupied land which still requires survey in Johore is not less than 250,000 acres. Wanting a preliminary settlement it is impossible to estimate, except very approximately, what the area is.

Considerable progress is being made towards training a competent subordinate field staff. This is the outstanding need of the Department.

The office staff has shewn considerable improvement during the year but there is still much to be desired. The system of training now employed is that recommended by Mr. J. DEWAR, Acting Surveyor-General, Federated Malay States, in a special report.

XXII.—TOWN BOARDS

JOHORE BAHRU

128. This Board is in charge of the townships of Johore Bahru, Tebrau, Rengam, Kluang, Batu Sepuloh Scudai and Sedenak, and of the villages of Bekok, Paloh, and Senai, which have been declared Town Board areas under section 50 of the Enactment. The by-laws made applicable to these areas are those which concern building and conservancy. No revenue was collected from these villages.

The total revenue collected by the Board was \$341,543 compared with \$252,870 in 1926.

The revenue collected for electric light in Johore Bahru amounted to \$131,668 as against \$74,032 in 1926 and for motor vehicles \$51,558 against \$41,920.

At Kluang and Rengam there was considerable progress in the building of brick shop houses.

The Fire Brigade was called out on five occasions only to deal with small outbreaks of fire. Expenditure on the Brigade was \$17,044 as compared with \$12,782 in 1926.

KOTA TINGGI

129. The revenue in 1927 was \$22,351 against \$20,971 in 1926. An Incinerator was built and brought into use and a considerable amount of reclamation work was done.

MUAR

130. The Muar Board is in charge of the townships of Bandar Maharani, Panchor, Tangkak, Parit Jawa, Sungei Idrus and Bukit Pasir, and supervises sanitary work in the

villages of Serom, Parit Bakar, Sungei Renchong, Tanjong Agas, Bukit Kangka, Sagil Luar, Bekoh, Gersek and Simpang Jeram.

The Revenue was \$267,563 in 1927 compared with \$246,009 in 1926, \$60,172 being collected on account of licences for motor vehicles.

BATU PAHAT

131. This Board is in charge of the townships of Bandar Penggaram (Batu Pahat) and Senggarang and supervises sanitary work in the villages of Benut, Rengit, Parit Kemang, Semrah, Pesrai, Yong Peng, Sri Gading and Hup Choon Kang.

The revenue was \$153,618 compared with \$138,886 in 1926. Taxes on motor vehicles accounted for \$9,722 of this increase.

ENDAU

132. This Board is in charge of the townships of Mersing and Jemaluang. The revenue for 1927 was \$19,356. Revenue from taxes on motor vehicles amounted to \$4,244.

SEGAMAT

133. This Board was at the beginning of the year in charge of the townships of Segamat, Batu Anam, Buloh Kasap and Labis, and (under section 50 of the Enactment) of Kampong Gonting, Jabi, Jementah and Kampong Jalan Genuang. Jementah was declared a Town Board area in April and in November the charge of the Board under Section 50 of the Enactment was extended to Kampong Bukit Satu and Kampong Gemas. The revenue was \$45,733 compared with \$34,617 in 1926. House and Land Assessment were collected at Segamat and Batu Anam only. Taxes on motor vehicles amounted to \$12,419. Building in the new township of Buloh Kasap is proceeding apace.

XXIII.—VETERINARY

134. This department was in the charge of His Highness TUNKU ABU BAKAR with Veterinary Inspectors at Johore Bahru, Muar and Batu Pahat. In the out-stations the Assistant Surgeons are in charge of Veterinary work.

Increased attention is being given to meat inspection. All meat exposed for sale in markets is now subjected to preliminary examination by the Veterinary Department. Dairies are also regularly inspected. Action is proceeding for removal of pig styes, goats pens and cattle sheds outside Town Board limits.

There were outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease in the Districts of Muar, Batu Pahat, Johore Bahru and Segamat, 588 animals being infected, with 12 deaths.

The total number of animals imported and exported was as follows:—

	<i>Horses</i>	<i>Oxen</i>	<i>Sheep and goats</i>	<i>Swine</i>
Import	...	4	3,049	2,530
Export	...	50	77	100
				23,408
				1,912

XXIV.—STAFF

MALAY STAFF

135. His Highness TUNKU TEMENGGONG AHMAD was appointed to act as President, Town Board, Johore Bahru, from 14th January, 1927.

UNGKU ALI BIN ABDULLAH succeeded DATO DAUD BIN HAJI SULEIMAN as State Commissioner, Endau, on the 16th November, 1927.

DATO DAUD BIN HAJI SULEIMAN succeeded UNGKU ALI BIN ABDULLAH as State Commissioner, Muar, on the 16th November, 1927.

The following Malay Officers retired in the course of the year:—

DATO HAJI YUNOS BIN IBRAHIM, Treasurer, Muar.

HAJI NOORDIN BIN ABDUL KARIM, Treasurer, Mersing.

INCHE HARRON BIN HAJI KASSIM, Postmaster, Batu Pahat.

DATO OMAR BIN UNDOT, District Officer, Segamat.

EUROPEAN STAFF

136. Mr. C. W. H. COCHRANE was transferred to the Federated Malay States as Acting British Resident, Perak, on the 10th September and was succeeded by Mr. G. E. SHAW as Acting General Adviser.

Captain A. C. BAKER succeeded Mr. F. T. TREE as Assistant Adviser, Muar, on the 1st July.

Mr. S. W. JONES took over duty as Commissioner, Trade and Customs, from Mr. D. WILLS on the 3rd December.

Dr. G. H. GARLICK and Mr. S. J. W. GOOCH acted as Principal Medical Officer and State Engineer from 22nd November and 8th November respectively.

G. E. SHAW,

Acting General Adviser.

JOHORE BAHRU,
27th May, 1928.

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APPENDIX A

Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31st December, 1927, with corresponding figures for 1926

LIABILITIES		31st Dec., 1926		31st Dec., 1927		ASSETS		31st Dec., 1926		31st Dec., 1927	
		\$	c.	\$	c.			\$	c.	\$	c.
Deposits	...	3,894,223	06	5,660,984	09	Cash	...	6,936,671	44	6,051,286	04
Opium Reserve Replacement Fund	...	6,119,922	29	7,701,199	28	Cash in Transit	...	111,793	20	101,711	01
Toh Ah Boon Education Fund	...	20,000	00	20,789	14	INVESTMENTS SURPLUS FUNDS (at cost) —					
Suspense	...	3,810	75	46,270	66	British War Loans	...	618,142	56		
Surplus	...	17,935,508	17	20,826,057	84	National War Bonds	...	1,816,533	75		
						Other Sterling Securities	...	7,902,719	61		
						S. S. War Loans	...	1,486,532	55		
						Fixed Deposits	...	7,500,000	00		
						INVESTMENTS SPECIFIC FUNDS (at cost) —					
						Opium Reserve Replacement Reserve	...	7,704,199	28		
						Toh Ah Boon Education Fund	...	20,789	14		
						Advances	...	...	...
						Loans	...	...	...
						Suspense (Temporary Investment)	...	...	...
						Due by other Governments	...	...	...
						Stock of Chandu	...	...	...
Total	...	27,973,463	77	34,258,301	01	Total	...	27,973,463	77	34,258,301	01
								6,139,922	29	7,724,988	42
								161,644	34	154,671	64
								83,595	00	107,652	50
								...	...	593,475	00
								144,861	64	137,973	70
								64,388	71	58,614	23

APPENDIX B

*Comparative Statement of Actual Revenue
for 1926 and 1927*

Head of Revenue	Actual 1926	Actual 1927	Increase	Decrease
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Land Revenue ...	2,173,477	2,380,293	206,816	...
Forest Revenue ..	135,435	152,435	17,000	...
Customs ...	7,190,960	5,905,439	...	1,285,521
Licences, etc. ...	6,460,016	6,113,477	...	346,539
Fees of Court ...	221,534	224,355	2,821	...
Posts and Telegraphs ...	192,218	238,299	46,081	...
Ports and Harbour Dues ...	39,440	42,046	2,606	...
Railways ...	352,500	470,000	117,500	...
Interest ...	604,323	719,292	114,969	...
Miscellaneous Receipts ...	9,352	17,972	8,620	...
Municipal ...	705,535	838,516	132,981	...
Land Sales ...	696,775	1,136,899	440,124	...
Total ...	18,781,565	18,239,023	1,089,518	1,632,060

APPENDIX C

*Comparative Statement of Actual Expenditure for
1926 and 1927*

Head of Expenditure	Actual 1926	Actual 1927	Increase	Decrease
	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.
Pensions ...	230,822 93	344,096 63	113,273 70	...
Personal Emolu- ments ...	3,312,449 49	3,836,076 82	523,627 33	...
Other Charges ...	2,098,224 16	2,727,269 62	629,045 46	...
Transport ...	23,142 57	41,968 07	18,825 50	...
Opium Reserve Fund ...	5,898,498 08	1,249,998 00	..	4,648,500 08
Interest ...	28,000 00	...	...	28,000 00
Miscellaneous Services ...	472,119 55	575,562 19	103,442 64	...
Purchase of Land Public Works (A. R.) ...	1,176,223 31	161,838 58	...	1,014,384 73
Public Works (S. S.) ...	1,534,716 71	1,635,458 34	100,741 63	...
Public Works (S. S.) ...	3,325,034 91	4,776,205 24	1,451,170 33	...
Total ...	18,099,231 71	15,348,473 49	2,940,126 59	5,690,884 81

APPENDIX D

STATISTICAL RETURN OF PROGRESS, 1923 - 1927

			<i>Revenue</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>
			—	—
			\$	\$
1923	...	...	11,094,955	7,064,166
1924	...	...	10,947,960	8,095,276
1925	...	...	15,884,592	9,780,322
1926	...	...	18,781,565	18,099,232
1927	...	...	18,239,023	15,348,473

KELANTAN

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1927

BY

R. J. B. CLAYTON, M.C.S.,
Acting British Adviser

SINGAPORE :

Printed at the GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, SINGAPORE,
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1928

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APPENDIX—DETAILED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

I.
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KELANTAN

Administration Report for the year 1927

I.—HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY

1. Little is known of the early history of Kelantan but the name is said to be derived from the two Malay words "Gelam Hutan"; a species of swampy jungle, (*Melaleuca Leucadendron*) which originally covered much of the coastal area.

A Chinese Chronicler CHAO JE KUA, writing about the year 1225, mentions it as subject to the Sumatran kingdom of Palembang. Portuguese and Dutch maps of the 16th century give the name, and some show a town near the coast, but references to the country are few. Towards the end of the 18th century, the Siamese established suzerainty, which continued till 1909, when it was transferred to Great Britain and a British Adviser,—“whose advice the Sultan undertakes to follow in all matters of administration other than those touching the Mohammedan religion and local Malay custom”—appointed.

The present ruler is His Highness the Sultan Sir ISMAIL IBNI ALMERHUM SULTAN MOHAMED IV, K.C.M.G., who succeeded his father in 1920.

2. The State lies on the Eastern coast of the Malay Peninsula between latitudes $4^{\circ} 35'$ and $6^{\circ} 15'$ North and longitudes $101^{\circ} 22'$ and $102^{\circ} 37'$ East, and is bounded on the North by the China Sea, on the East by the China Sea and the State of Trengganu, on the South by the State of Pahang, and on the West by the State of Perak, and the Patani district of Southern Siam. It has a greatest length from North to South of 115 miles and a greatest breadth from East to West of 60 miles; the total area being 5,713 square miles.

The State Capital is Kota Bharu, situated some six miles from the mouth of the Kelantan river and containing 12,000 inhabitants. Kuala Krai is the headquarters of the Southern and Pasir Puteh of the Eastern, Administrative District.

3. Behind a low sandy coast line of some 60 miles in length, lies a fertile plain of about 1,000 square miles in area, densely populated, and closely cultivated with rice, coconut

and fruit trees. South of this plain the country is hilly and broken, the highest hills being those of the main range of the Peninsula, which forms the boundary with Perak, and the Tahan range on the Pahang border, many peaks exceeding 6,000 feet in height. This part of the State is thinly populated, but contains the bulk of the foreign owned estates. Owing to the difficulty of river navigation, and the complete absence of other means of communication it has, until recently, remained almost inaccessible, but is now being opened to settlers by the Federated Malay States (East Coast) Railway.

4. The population, which is predominantly Malay, and Kelantan-born, was at the 1921 Census 309,300, of whom 286,363 were Malays and of these 278,989 Kelantanese. Of 12,000 Chinese half were born in Kelantan, and practically all of the 6,000 Siamese. Europeans number about 100.

5. The predominant industry is agriculture and the most important product rice. The next in importance are rubber and coconuts, while there is a flourishing trade in cattle and poultry.

Other important industries are fishing and weaving. There is no mining worth mention though prospecting for tin is in progress.

6. As compared with the Western States of Malaya the climate may be described as hot, dry and bracing. Temperatures are recorded at eight, and rainfall at twenty-two, Stations, but as all these are well below the 200 feet level, no figures are available for the high lands further South. Temperature as high as 102 F and as low as 61 F has been recorded in past years but this is unusual. During 1927 the highest mean monthly temperature recorded was 92.2' F in April and the lowest 69.23' F in September. During the greater part of the year the heat is mitigated by a cool breeze.

The average monthly rainfall recorded at these Stations varied from 7.13 inches to 14.51 inches, with a distinctly drier season from March to August. The average annual rainfall over the whole State (exclusive of the higher hills) is about 103 inches, though as much as 223 inches has been registered at some Stations in abnormal years.

7. The principal language is Malay, which is spoken and understood by all but a small minority of Immigrant Indian and Chinese labourers.

8. Straits Settlements' currency, monetary units and weights and measures are in use but a locally minted coin called "Pitis" made from an alloy of tin and lead, ranking in value at $1/5$ of a cent, is still current in the bazaar, though no longer manufactured.

II.—GENERAL

9. The topographical configuration of the country is such that two thirds of the drainage of the State must pass through a narrow neck at Kuala Krai before issuing on the coastal plain, and 1927 was ushered in by an unprecedented flood. At Kuala Krai and to the South of it the Kelantan river rose to seventy feet above the normal dry-weather level and Railway Construction camps, estate buildings, riverside villages and cultivation were swept away. Spreading out over the coastal plain, the flood submerged 800 square miles of country, while a gale prevented the arrival of supplies by sea. Owing to the splendid team work of all communities the loss of life was small, only 54 persons being drowned, but the damage done was enormous. Some 1,700 houses were washed away, 2,900 head of cattle drowned, and much of the padi crop ruined. Railway and roads suffered severely (more particularly in respect of bridges) as did also telegraph and telephone lines, and the difficulty and cost of making good flood losses has been a heavy tax on the energy and resources of both the Government and the public.

10. Scarcely had the flood waters subsided when an accidental fire broke out in Kota Bharu, destroyed some 275 houses in the Western area of the town, and did over a million dollars worth of damage before it was got under. This added to the difficulties of the general situation and caused a temporary house shortage but was in some ways a blessing in disguise, as the area destroyed was ill laid out, and the houses mostly of a mean type, and their destruction gave an impetus to the building of a better class of house in areas already laid out on better town planning lines.

11. The year has therefore been to a great extent a year of reconstruction, a process greatly aided by the final settlement, at the end of 1926, of the protracted Duff Development Company dispute and the consequent removal of uncertainty as to the financial position.

III.—FINANCE

12. The following table gives the annual revenue and expenditure since the State came under British protection:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Revenue</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>
	\$	\$
1910 ...	419,327	403,552
1911 ...	487,467	574,850
1912 ...	535,669	665,608
1913 ...	676,020	672,137
1914 ...	762,772	805,965
1915 ...	692,556	807,714
1916 ...	822,860	808,164
1917 ...	910,291	757,946
1918 ...	955,402	899,161
1919 ...	1,141,444	1,065,012
1920 ...	1,328,955	1,403,208
1921 ...	1,160,262	1,678,432
1922 ...	1,310,020	1,539,318
1923 ...	1,396,855	1,271,887
1924 ...	1,422,113	1,442,032
1925 ...	1,804,180	1,401,961
1926 ...	2,371,595	1,927,134
1927 ...	2,448,090	2,949,438*

*Includes a sum of \$320,000 devoted to reduction of the Public Debt.

13. *Revenue*.—As will be seen from the statement given below the only revenue increases worthy of note were those under “Posts and Telegraphs” and “Miscellaneous Receipts”; the latter item being swelled by Flood Relief Contributions. The only notable decrease was in “Land Revenue” and was due to the loss of records and the necessity of closing the application books during the reconstruction period.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF REVENUE FOR THE
YEARS 1926 AND 1927.

Heads of Revenue	Estimates, 1927	Revenue 1927	Revenue 1926	Increase	Decrease
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Land Revenue ...	612,630	568,551	620,380	...	60,829
Customs ...	656,850	811,430	806,832	4,607	...
Port Dues ...	3,000	7,311	4,725	2,586	...
Licence, Excise etc. ...	550,400	640,050	650,744	...	10,694
Fees of Office etc. ...	87,360	80,450	91,570	...	2,137
Posts and Telegraphs ...	100,410	127,142	106,328	20,814	...
Interest ...	22,000	27,780	20,424	7,356	...
Miscellaneous Receipts ...	2,050	118,028	5,320	113,602	...
Municipal ...	55,600	57,450	56,260	1,190	...
Total ...	2,002,190	2,448,090	2,371,595	76,495	...

14. There was no alteration in the basis of taxation, but the schedule of the Court Fees Enactment was revised to provide for the collection of estate duty on property in Kelantan passing at death, and a revised Customs Tariff introduced to consolidate the existing law, provide protection for the local weaving industry and bring the import duties on liquors and tobacco into line with those in force elsewhere in Malaya.

15. *Expenditure.*—Public Debt Redemption and an extensive programme of Public Works were mainly accountable for the increased expenditure detailed hereinunder but an increase in personnel, especially in the technical departments, and the cost of flood relief measures helped to swell the total.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FOR
THE YEARS 1926 AND 1927.

Heads of Expenditure	Estimates, 1927	Expendi- ture, 1927	Expendi- ture, 1926	Increase	Decrease
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Pensions and Retired Allowances ...	100,524	93,105	96,567	...	3,462
Personal Emoluments...	701,314	691,788	607,114	84,674	...
Other Charges ...	452,727	458,545	322,875	135,670	...
Interest ...	25,400	25,400	48,185	...	22,785
Transport ...	2,000	1,869	1,945	...	76
Compensation for Land and Crops ...	1,000	50,820	38,629	12,200	...
Miscellaneous ...	61,148	90,000	75,445	14,555	...
Works and Buildings—Annually Recurrent...	32,900	63,016	39,281	23,735	...
Roads, Streets and Bridges,—Annually Recurrent ...	88,000	229,299	114,581	114,718	...
Works and Buildings,—Special Services ...	255,440	365,211	71,596	293,615	...
Roads, Streets and Bridges,—Special Services ...	247,000	286,194	148,443	137,751	...
Repayment of Loans (Straits Settlements) ...	...	320,000	...	320,000	...
Special Expenditure ...	...	150,951	250,150	...	99,208
Temporary Allowance	120,000	123,231	112,314	10,917	...
Total ...	2,087,453	2,949,438	1,927,134	1,022,304	...

16. During the year the Straits Settlements $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent loan (\$120,000) was paid off in full and half of the Straits Settlements 5 per cent loan of \$400,000 reducing the total external indebtedness of the State at the close of the year to \$4,080,684; of which \$3,880,684 is the sum advanced in 1926 (interest free for five years) by the Straits Settlements Government to enable the State to satisfy the Duff Arbitration Award and of which no part was spent in Kelantan.

A detailed statement of assets and liabilities is given as an Appendix.

17. There is a branch of the Mercantile Bank of India in the State capital, Kota Bharu, and arrangements for the establishment of a Post Office Savings Bank were in hand at the close of the year.

IV.—PRODUCTION

A. AGRICULTURAL

18. *Rice*—173,937 acres were under Padi for the 1927 harvest as against 158,250 acres at the corresponding period in the previous year, but the crop was damaged by flood, only 18,751,000 gantangs being harvested as against over 25 million gantangs from the smaller area cultivated the year before. The present crop is suffering from drought.

Increase of population and a series of bad seasons have made Kelantan, which was previously self supporting as regards rice, a considerable importer, and it has been found necessary to prohibit all export of padi and rice.

The soil of much of the land under this crop is poor, and effective irrigation in many areas impossible, while repeated crop failures, caused by drought or flood, have resulted in a tendency to plant up the less productive rice lands with rubber and other crops. Seed selection is being tried with promising results, but there is comparatively little new land suitable for rice cultivation and the prospects of the State ever again being self supporting as regards rice, are remote.

19. *Rubber*.—Reliable figures are not available for areas under rubber which have not yet reached the producing stage, but despite the restriction of output imposed by the Stevenson Scheme, 28,687 acres of rubber estates, 1,856 acres of medium holdings and 35,635 acres of smaller holdings, with an area of just over 50,000 acres in tapping, produced and exported over 13,000,000 lbs of dry rubber. The assessed production on standard tapping would have been over 19,000,000 lbs. Young rubber was to a considerable extent interplanted with existing cultivation on, rice, "Kampong" and coconut land, and the demand for new rubber land by small holders was large, though owing to the necessity of closing the application books during reconstruction work after the flood, actual alienation for rubber cultivation was only 8,597 acres.

20. *Coconuts*.—There has been little change as regards this cultivation, which has proved less attractive than rubber and is confined almost entirely to the already fully developed coastal plain.

21. Fruit orchards, betel-nut, vegetables, tobacco, ground nuts and many other products flourish but are grown only on a minor scale and for the most part for local consumption.

The approximate acreages under cultivation during 1927 were :—

<i>Rice</i>	<i>Rubber</i>	<i>Coconuts</i>	<i>Fruit Orchards</i>	<i>Miscellaneous and mixed cultivation including grazing land</i>	<i>Total</i>
—	—	—	—	—	—
173,987	66,178	57,200	30,000	50,000	377,365

22. Kelantan is good grass country, with an excellent breed of cattle and buffaloes and a less excellent one of goats and sheep. The cattle census, though undoubtedly incomplete, puts the cattle and buffaloes at 135,000 head. Losses by flood and the increasing demand for exported Kelantan cattle made it necessary to limit the export quota to 250 head per month. As there is also a large and increasing export of poultry it would seem that large scale dairy farming might prove a profitable investment.

B. FORESTRY

23. The more accessible forests of Kelantan are poor in respect of Chengai and Merbau, the most highly valued of Malayan commercial timbers, while the devastation of the wild rubber and gum forests has made it necessary to prohibit all exploitation of these jungle products for the present, but Resak, Kumus Kruin, Seraya and Kulim are plentiful, as is also Tembusu. Kelantan is at present an importer of timber and without a trained Forestry Department, but the popularisation of the less well known timbers referred to above and the opening up of Southern Kelantan may entirely alter the position. The forest royalty collected amounted to \$44,462.

C. FISHERIES

24. For tropical waters, in which the lack of nitrogen inhibits the growth of water weed, both sea and rivers are well stocked with fish. The exposed and harbourless coast, the presence of coral, and the distance from markets, however combine to discourage fishing by any but primitive native methods and although there is a large "fleet" of native

fishing boats, the catch is all consumed locally or exported as salt fish. In the two local markets for which figures are available, the sale of fresh fish amounted to 1,280 tons during the year but this, of course, represents but a small fraction of the local consumption.

D. MINING

25. Although the Geological survey of Kelantan is not, so far as it has gone, very encouraging, mining and prospecting for both gold and tin has been in progress sporadically for many years, and licences for prospecting are now extant over an area of 10,546 acres, while 2,285 acres are held on mining title.

E. OTHER LOCAL PRODUCTION

26. As elsewhere in Malaya, basket and mat making is carried on but the outstanding "cottage industry" of the State is the weaving of silk, and to a lesser degree of cotton, piece goods. The trade in cotton goods is being killed by the machine made article but with a protective duty on manufactured silk and chemical dyes, the trade in hand-woven silk is expanding. Approximately half the output is consumed locally but the export is steadily increasing.

27. The following table is a good guide to Kelantan's productive activities.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL ARTICLES OF LOCAL PRODUCTION AND EXPORT FOR FIVE YEARS

No.	ARTICLE	How Stated	1923		1924		1925		1926		1927	
			Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1	Rubber	Pikuls	56,529	\$ 3,754,562	56,856	\$ 3,356,560	65,960	\$ 9,314,227	103,634	\$ 10,419,532	98,327	\$ 7,796,450
2	Copra	"	107,077	1,043,420	125,586	1,208,453	86,623	801,895	93,609	1,070,286	82,521	674,814
3	Betel-nuts—(a) Dried	"	45,435	372,072	42,549	340,388	41,812	630,147	47,078	667,078	14,668	96,910
	(b) Fresh	"	...	370	...	1,107	...	675	...	...	...	1,502
4	Rice and Padi	Pikuls	11,641	36,272	8,156	20,095	180	620	210	754	10	47
5	Timber and Planks	"	...	2,472	...	1,856	...	27	...	601	...	653
6	Cattle	Nos	1,256	55,766	349	12,752	571	22,512	766	36,230	1,973	108, 52
7	Jungle Produce	"	...	6,611	...	9,135	...	9,254	...	6,765	...	12,309
8	Fish	Pikuls	20,475	253,923	14,838	152,170	12,073	122,936	12,625	152,681	12,832	128,352
9	Poultry	Dozens	1,694	5,545	6,143	22,130	3,978	14,491	3,040	12,026	6,480	25,915
10	Tin-Ore	Pikuls	14	828	...	...	20	1,752	8	767	59	6,500
11	Gold	Ozs	5	266	20	740	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	Textiles—(a) Silk	Corges	102	20,481	257	38,500	65	10,423	595	59,505	532	53,201
	(b) Cotton	"	442	20,268	801	37,623	1,197	46,540	218	8,750	...	13,220

V.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS

28. *Trade*.—Both import and export trade is almost entirely with Singapore, though a proportion of our imported rice comes direct from Siam, and since the opening of railway communication, Penang has captured a minute share thereof.

The total value of trade in 1927 amounted to \$15,551,771 as against \$18,201,621 in 1926, the decrease being due, partly to temporary stagnation caused by the flood, but mainly to the reduction both in quantity and in value of the rubber export. The “favourable balance of trade” was reduced from \$6,835,817 to \$2,491,721. Invisible exports are practically negligible. The comparative figures of the value of trade for the last five years are:—

	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Imports ...	3,070,562	3,570,668	5,211,103	5,682,902	6,530,025
Exports ...	5,667,729	5,407,674	11,185,696	12,518,719	9,021,746
Total Trade ...	8,738,291	8,975,362	16,396,799	18,201,621	15,551,771

Detailed trade returns have been published separately.

29. During the earlier months of the year import trade was swelled by necessary replacements of flood and fire losses but the figures given below, if read with the export table given under “Production”, clearly present the general trade position.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL OF IMPORT FOR FIVE YEARS

No.	Article	How stated	1923		1924		1925		1926		1927	
			Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1.	Fish	...	2,602	30,718	3,910	30,575	4,108	41,061	3,530	44,091	3,800	40,378
2.	Rice	...	1,308	9,100	11,303	76,770	85,085	617,000	130,022	988,733	236,705	1,656,037
3.	Benzine	...	47,754	47,754	66,355	66,487	82,700	82,864	114,425	114,425	226,512	226,512
4.	Petroleum	...	336,412	252,300	393,880	272,452	53,030 cases	387,306	36,472 cases	218,835	64,230 cases	366,005
5.	Textiles (all kinds)	...	...	880,000	...	917,627	...	1,007,300	...	915,308	...	639,043
6.	Machinery	...	...	31,577	...	23,764	...	34,400	...	59,655	...	71,575
7.	Motor Vehicles	...	...	34,778	...	95,750	...	186,200	...	164,075	...	166,038
8.	Cement	...	1,007	12,920	2,392	12,803	2,527	15,257	5,263	35,444	12,453	74,716
9.	Timber and Planks	...	...	20,466	...	60,045	...	56,014	...	73,707	...	166,642

30. Though there has been no striking development in trade, the decrease in the favourable balance thereof, must, if continued, exercise an adverse influence on the purchasing power of the country and it is worthy of note that the "saturation point" as regards such luxury articles as motor vehicles seems for the moment to have been reached.

31. Except for the European estates, which to some extent deal direct with Singapore or Penang, the local silk weaving industry, and a number of Indian traders in piece goods, trade is entirely in Chinese hands and is conducted through the agency of Chinese firms in Singapore. The bulk of trade is *viâ* the Port of Tumpat, which has direct connection by rail with Southern and Western Kelantan, and by both river and rail with the capital, whence again there is connection by river and road with eastern and central Kelantan, but a proportion of the import and export trade of eastern Kelantan goes and comes *viâ* the smaller ports of Semerak and Bachok.

VI.—COMMUNICATIONS

32. *Shipping and Ports*.—Freight and passenger charges between Kelantan and Singapore are high, considering the shortness of the run (circa 360 miles) but otherwise, unless interrupted by rough weather, sea communications are good and regular. The tonnage of steamers calling during the year increased from 114,264 tons in 1926 to 139,324 tons in 1927 and that of sailing vessels by nearly one third to 22,327 tons. Unfortunately the State is entirely without harbours and in rough weather trade is much hampered, despite the operation of an efficient Tug and Lighterage service at Tumpat, by the lack of a sheltered anchorage and by the presence of a bar at each river's mouth.

The two main waterways (Kelantan and Golok rivers) moreover are shallow and difficult of navigation and although the bulk of the heavy goods traffic from the port of Tumpat to the Capital is by the Kelantan river and there are both launches, passenger, and cargo boats plying up the Kelantan river for another 60 miles, these have all to be of very shallow draft, while after the river gets into the hilly country south of Kuala Krai, the difficulties of navigation increase so rapidly that little except small native poling craft can be used. There are 5,171 launches and boats on the local register.

33. *Railways*.—The Federated Malay States Railways system ("East Coast Line") touches the coast at Tumpat, gives connection (*viâ* Siam) to the Western side of the Malay

Peninsula and Singapore, and runs South into Ulu Kelantan for 63 miles to Manik Urai; earth work being already completed for another 20 miles beyond this point. The northern rail head of the main railway system has already crossed the State boundary from Pahang, but owing to the difficulties of construction and flood damage, the gap of 80 miles will not be closed before 1930.

34. *Roads*.—With 155 miles of road open for traffic, the North Eastern area of the State is now well served in this respect and road communication is nearly through to the State of Trengganu on the East, but the Western and Southern areas of the State still remain unroaded.

35. *Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones*.—There are 13 Post Offices or Sub-Post Offices in the State and mails (letter post) are despatched and received daily by rail or sea to the Colony and the Federated Malay States while parcel mails are despatched and received bi-weekly by sea. There is also a bi-weekly mail service to Siam and Trengganu.

The number of Postal articles dealt with practically doubled during the year to just over two million. The postal rates in force are the same as those of the Straits Settlements.

There are four telegraph Offices in the State, Kota Bharu, Kuala Krai, Pasir Puteh and Tumpat and telegraphic communication with the outside world *via* Haadyai in Siam but this service is costly, (the Siamese charge being six cents per word) and messages are rather liable to delay and mutilation. The railway telegraph system within the State is also available in emergency. A direct line (*via* Pahang) is under construction and should be available in 1929.

There is a telephone exchange in Kota Bharu with connections to Kuala Krai, Pasir Puteh and Tumpat and extensions of the system are in hand.

VII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS

36. The Laws of Kelantan are enacted by His Highness the Sultan in Council with the advice of the British Adviser and are based on those of the Federated Malay States, but, "Malay" being the official language, are in a simplified form. The legal Code is far from complete but where Kelantan law is silent the principles of Federated Malay States and English Common Law prevail. The work of codifying the law is

now in hand and all existing laws and rules were for the first time collected and indexed for reference. The State is pledged in due course to establish the Court of a Judge and a Court of Appeal.

The Courts as at present established are:—

The Court of Revision consisting of His Highness the Sultan in consultation with the British Adviser; the Court of the Senior Magistrate with unlimited jurisdiction in Criminal, Probate and Civil matters as well as on the appellate side; (the Datoh Mufti sitting as Assessor in Mohammedan murder trials or when matters of Mohammedan law or religion are involved); the Courts of Magistrates of the 1st and 2nd Class and the Court of a Penggawa, which latter deals only with petty offences.

All Mohammedan religious matters are dealt with by the Court of the Chief Kathi or of an Assistant Kathi, with an appeal to the Datoh Mufti. The Assistant Adviser is Senior Magistrate and the District Officers Ulu Kelantan and Pasir Puteh magistrates of the first class but otherwise all Courts are presided over by Kelantanese Officers. Advocates and Solicitors are not admitted to practice in the Courts except by special permission in particular cases but there are a few "licensed pleaders" ("Penggauam").

37. The general tendency during the year was towards a decrease in the criminal and an increase in the civil work performed by the Courts.

38. There are 23 Police Stations and Police posts in the State and the Police force, which, with the exception of the Commissioner is entirely Kelantanese, was at full strength throughout the year. Drill and discipline is satisfactory but the health of the force leaves much to be desired.

The more serious offences dealt with, in particular robbery and cattle theft, showed a decrease, but 10 murders were reported and petty theft appears to be on the increase. In all 1,754 criminal offences were reported to the Police, followed by 1,164 arrests and 883 convictions. There were also 1,106 persons arrested and 960 convicted under the Small Offences Enactment.

Four thousand seven hundred and twenty-three firearms, of which nearly half were muzzle loaders, were licensed.

39. There are three prisons in the State, that at Kota Bharu being both prison and convict establishment, while those at Kuala Krai and Pasir Puteh are used for short-sentence prisoners convicted locally.

The total number of prisoners was 275 at the beginning and 234 at the close of the year and the majority Kelantanese, though there is a sprinkling of Chinese, Indians, Siamese and Javanese. Nearly all "hard labour" is extra mural and there were consequently 16 escapes, with only five recaptures. Health and discipline were on the whole good, there being only three deaths and no serious outbreak of disease.

The Kota Bharu prison is inspected bi-monthly by members of the Board of Visiting Justices.

VIII.—PUBLIC WORKS

40. In previous years the State has been hampered by a shortage of funds for public works and the State Engineer has been single handed but the improved financial position in 1927 permitted the engagement of two Assistant Engineers and the allotment of a sum of \$1,005,930 or nearly half the estimated revenue of the State (of which \$984,521 was expended) to this service. The greater part of this sum was spent on roads and bridges but the first five wards of the new State Hospital, an electric power house, a new Land Office, an annexe to the Residency and two European quarters were among the more important permanent buildings erected. An electric light supply was installed in the State Capital and is now in process of extension to meet a steadily increasing demand.

During the year, $36\frac{1}{2}$ miles of new road were constructed, bringing the length of road open for vehicular traffic up to 155 miles of which 54 miles is metalled or gravelled, while a further $8\frac{1}{4}$ miles were under construction at the end of the year. Twenty-six new bridges were put in and the main roads for the first time kept open for traffic throughout the monsoon season.

IX.—PUBLIC HEALTH

41. The State provides a General, a European and a Gaol Hospital in Kota Bharu, a smaller Hospital in Kuala Krai, and dispensaries at Pasir Puteh and Tumpat, as well as an isolation Hospital at the latter place. The larger estates provide Hospital accommodation and medical attendance for their employees, as does also the Railway

Department at various points along the line. The State Surgeon, Health Officer and two European Nursing Sisters are stationed at Kota Bharu while a private medical practitioner (by arrangement) supervises the Hospital at Kuala Krai. The State Hospital is now being rebuilt on the pavilion system and will shortly have accommodation for 250 third class patients, as well as two second class wards. The daily charge for a third class patient is 50 cents but free treatment is given in all indigent cases. The expenditure, exclusive of buildings and their upkeep, increased from \$115,011 in 1926 to \$152,537 in 1927.

42. The great flood of 1926—1927 not only destroyed or put out of action all the estate and railway Hospitals but adversely affected public health during the early months of the year, especially on estates, where “beri-beri” and lung trouble were common, while Malaria assumed almost epidemic proportions. Public health during the second half of the year however showed marked improvement. Throughout the year the State was free of all serious infectious disease, though there were a few cases of Chicken-pox Measles and Mumps.

As elsewhere in Malaya, Malaria is our most serious problem, 37 per cent of the cases admitted to the Government Hospitals, 36 per cent of those admitted to estate Hospitals, and more than half the cases admitted to the European Hospital, being Malarial patients. Unfortunately Malaria appears to be on the increase though draining, oiling and generally improved health conditions on estates and the activities of the new appointed (August 1927) Health Officer in the towns and villages should do much to stay its spread. Next to Malaria Hook-worm (Ankylostomiasis) is probably the most prevalent disease but the only statistics available are those given below, of patients who came to Government or Estate Hospitals for treatment.

Statistics showing the number of admissions and deaths from the principal diseases in Government and Estate Hospitals during 1927:—

	GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS		ESTATE HOSPITALS		TOTAL	
	<i>Treated</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Treated</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Treated</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
Malaria	2,251	80	2,281	103	4,532	102
Diarrhoea and Dysentery	200	45	905	64	1,105	100
Lung Disease	333	30	821	70	1,154	100
Ulcers	442	2	671	1	1,113	3
Ankylostomiasis	184	8	283	1	467	9
Veneral Disease	227	2	154	1	381	3

43. It has not so far been possible to do much for the rural areas but school teachers and selected headmen are being trained to treat Ankylostomiasis, Malaria, and other simple ailments. Treatment for Yaws and vaccination is generally appreciated and accepted without any form of compulsion and nearly 8,000 persons were vaccinated, mostly at the local vernacular schools, which are periodically visited for the medical examination and treatment of the school children. All the 379 pilgrims, who left the State for Mecca, were inoculated for cholera and vaccinated.

44. Registration of Births and Deaths was introduced during 1926 but the returns are obviously incomplete and unreliable, especially for the urban areas, where the population is a mixed one. On Estates, which return a total labour force of 6,494 of all nationalities, there were 390 deaths and 114 births giving rates of 60·1 per mille and 17·5 per mille respectively.

The only immigration and emigration figures available are those for Chinese arriving or leaving by sea; of these 1,712 were immigrants and 1,318 emigrants.

45. The State was practically free from veterinary disease. A few cases of foot-and-mouth disease were reported but there were no deaths and although seven head of cattle died suddenly in October the disease was not identified and did not spread. Several dogs died of what was suspected to be rabies but no NEGRI-bodies were found in the brains forwarded to the Research Institute, Kuala Lumpur.

X.—EDUCATION

46. Educational facilities, technical or otherwise, are still scanty in Kelantan and the State maintains a quota of seven selected pupils at educational institutions outside the State and has provided for a scholarship at Raffles College, Singapore, as well as sending one youth to read for the Bar in England. Provision has also been made for the training as school teachers, in Perak, of four Kelantanese and of one at a school of Agriculture. The Majlis Ugama Islam also provided education for two Kelantanese outside the State.

47. In Kelantan the Majlis Ugama Islam provides English education for 76 boys and vernacular education for 250, while the State provides 36 vernacular schools which have an enrolment of 2,078 pupils. There are also three Chinese schools teaching Chinese and a little English, but the local

educational standard is still low and the establishment of a Government English School, with the appointment of a Director of Education, which has been promised for 1929, is looked forward to as eagerly by the commonalty, as by His Highness the Sultan and his Council.

XI.—LAND AND SURVEYS

48. The years alienation amounted to 23,000 acres, bringing the total alienated area up to 470,000 acres or 13 per cent of the area of the State. Although the Northern districts are already almost wholly occupied and cultivated, in the South and South-west there are large tracks available which have as yet scarcely been explored.

49. Land revenue from all sources for the last five years has been as follows:—

1923	1924	1925	1926	1927
—	—	—	—	—
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
357,196	378,009	442,792	629,330	568,551

and shows a steady expansion, the drop in 1927 being due to the closing of the application books and the consequent decrease in "Land Sales" which fell from \$215,721 in 1926 to \$117,705 in 1927.

50. Land tenure is on the basis of the Torrens Registration system and is similar to that of the Federated Malay States, grants in perpetuity, and leases for a term not exceeding 100 years, being issued for the larger areas of agricultural and for town lands, while Asiatic proprietors hold agricultural land by Entry in a Mukim Register. Alienated land may be re-entered on behalf of the Ruler of the State if not cultivated in accordance with the terms of the title or sold by public auction if the rent thereon remains unpaid. The rate of annual rent imposed varies from 50 cents to \$1.50 per acre and is based on the purpose for which the land is alienated and the amenities thereof, while premium on alienation ranges from \$2.50 to \$25 per acre. There are District Land Offices at Kuala Krai, Pasir Puteh, Pasir Mas and Bacho and a combined Land and Registration Office at Kota Bharu. where all grants, leases and mining titles are registered.

51. Since the passing of the Land Enactment in 1926 the chief task of the Land Officers has been to get existing occupation settled and surveyed and the proprietors entered in the settlement and mukim registers.

52. With a rather more definite wet and dry season than the West of the Peninsula, and, in Southern Kelantan, large tracts of rich, though usually broken land, at all attitudes up to 6,000 feet available for settlement and now for the first time becoming accessible, the State appears to offer attractions to the tropical agriculturist. To protect the interests of the Kelantanese peasant proprietor, it is enacted that all transfers from Kelantanese to Non-Kelantanese and all applications for new land by Non-Kelantanese require the approval of His Highness the Sultan in Council but where the interests of Kelantanese are not jeopardised, such approval is readily given.

53. The Survey staff consisted of a Superintendent with one European and four Asiatic Assistant Surveyors and their field and office subordinates. The expenditure was \$92,999 of which administration represented 16·1, Office work 26·9 and field work 36 per cent. The revenue collected for survey work done was \$13,829.

54. The principal surveys completed included 389 town lots, 45 agricultural lots with an area of 3,650 acres and 1,181 small holdings. Design plans for the lay out of two towns and part of another and plane-table Topo-surveys for Kota Bharu and Pasir Puteh were also made and 16½ miles of traverse run. New Mukim maps and tracings were supplied to the Ulu Kelantan Land Office where all records had been destroyed by the flood.

55. The department is always hampered by a shortage of technical subordinates and was to some extent disorganised by the flood so that it is not surprising that arrears of work accumulated and the unsatisfied survey requisitions at the end of the year included 49,658 acres of agricultural land, 464 town lots, 425 acres of mining land and 1,329 small holdings. An additional Assistant Superintendent has since been appointed.

56. A geological survey map of the State, giving all information available to date on a six miles to the inch scale, is obtainable but is far from complete, though patches of Quartzite and shales, the Pahang volcanic series, granite and allied acid rocks, and lime stone and calcareous shales are shown thereon. Provision has been made for a more detailed survey.

XII.—LABOUR

57. The native Kelantanese is a good worker and if properly handled is quick to learn. Boat building is an ancestral trade at which he is very expert and as carpenter,

mason or mechanic he is little, if at all, inferior to the Chinese. The Government employs Kelantanese exclusively for all Public works.

58. The Federated Malay States Railways (East Coast line) employ both Kelantanese, Chinese, Tamil, Telegu and Northern Indians while the estates employ chiefly Tamils and Telegus. Except for Indian Immigrant Labour no figures are available.

59. In April, 1927, all previous "labour" legislation was repealed and the Indian Immigration Enactment (No. 2/27) introduced, thus bringing Kelantan, in respect of Indian labour, into line with the rest of Malaya. The situation was difficult as practically all the 24 estates employing Indian Immigrant Labour had lost their hospitals and lines in the flood but steps to remedy the situation were promptly taken and during the year there was great improvement in estate labour conditions. In one respect the flood was of service in that it swept away many unsuitable buildings, which are now being replaced by a better type. Sixteen estates now have their own hospitals and all provide medical attendance. Estate schools are still in their infancy.

60. The Government rate of pay for Kelantanese labourers varies from 40 cents to 60 cents per day according to the district. The daily wage of Indian Immigrant labourers on estates varies from 40 cents to 55 cents for men and from 35 cents to 50 cents for women but in most cases a bonus for regular out-turn or a commission on the latex brought in is also paid. The total number of Indian Immigrant labourers employed at the end of the year was 6,203 of whom 3,707 men and 1,264 women were employed on estates and 1,195 men and 37 women on railway work.

XIII.—MISCELLANEONS

61. His Excellency the High Commissioner, accompanied by His Excellency the General Officer Commanding, Singapore, visited Kelantan in September.

62. His Highness the Sultan paid an official visit to Singapore in July, being absent from his State for only twelve days during the year. His Highness takes the deepest personal interest in all matters affecting the welfare of his State and of his people.

63. The State Council which met, under the presidency of His Highness the Sultan, on sixteen occasions, lost, by the death in December of Datoh Mufti AL-HAJI CHE IDRIS, a member whose life and learning had earned for him the respect and regard of all who came into contact with him.

64. The European administrative staff consists of the Adviser and five other seconded officers of the Malayan Civil Service who between them fill thirteen Administrative, Judicial, and Executive posts.

65. Mr. W. M. MILLINGTON, M.C.S., acted as Adviser until March 26th when he was relieved by Mr. G. E. SHAW, M.C.S., O.B.E., the substantive holder of the appointment, who was in his turn relieved on September 6th by the undersigned.

R. J. B. CLAYTON, M.C.S.,
*Acting British Adviser to the
 Government of Kelantan.*

THE RESIDENCY,

KELANTAN, 14TH April, 1928.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities of the

LIABILITIES			Amount	Total
			\$	\$
DEPOSITS—				
Ulu Kelantan District Treasury	..	...	104,513	
Pasir Puteh do.	..	...	3,783	
Courts, Kota Bharu	..	...	26,630	
Police Fines and Rewards Fund	..	...	312	
Prisons do. do.	..	...	298	
Clerks' Fines and Rewards Fund	..	...	181	
Customs do. do.	..	...	35	
Police Sundry Deposit	..	...	774	
Prisons do.	..	...	351	
Customs do.	..	...	528	
Medical do.	..	...	809	
Land Office, Kota Bahru, Sundry Deposit	..	...	62,572	
Do. Survey Deposit	..	...	14,324	
Land Office, Pasir Mas, Sundry Deposit	..	...	71,339	
Do. Survey Deposit	..	...	667	
Clerks' Security Fund	..	...	2,067	
Suspense Account	..	...	17,076	
Pawnbroking Farm	..	...	5,700	
Toddy Farm	..	...	2,012	
Mentri Office	..	...	3,651	
Distressed Kelantanese in Mecca	..	...	1,228	
Customs Cess on Rubber	..	...	2,587	
New Mosque Deposit	..	...	1,057	
Money Order Deposit	..	...	7,039	
Indian Immigration Fund	..	...	701	
				330,234
LOANS—				
Loan owing to the Straits Settlements bearing interest @ 5% ...	...	...	200,000	
Loan owing to the Straits Settlements free of interest for five years, (1926-1931) ...	...	...	3,880,684	
				4,080,684
TOTAL ...			...	4,410,918

DIX

State of Kelantan as on 31st December, 1927

ASSETS		Amount	Total
		\$	\$
BALANCES—			
Cash—State Treasury, Kota Bharu	...	1,528	
District Treasury, Ulu Kelantan	...	32,875	
Do. Pasir Puteh	...	5,929	40,332
Bank—Mercantile Bank	...	658,373	
Do. Fixed deposit	...	15,000	
Chartered Bank	...	16,948	690,321
ADVANCES RECOVERABLE—			
Public Works Department Store Account	...	12,000	
Do. do. Factory Account	...	11,700	
Clubs	...	6,180	
Private Individuals	...	39,857	
Majlis Ugama	...	70,000	
Postal Order Account	...	400	
Dato' Kaya Pathi (Towkay Yeap Hong Ghee)	...	50,000	190,137
INVESTMENT—			
8,000 Duff Development Company's Shares @ \$5.00 each		40,000	40,000
			960,790
BALANCE to the debit of the State			3,450,128
TOTAL			4,410,918

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BRITISH ADVISER, TRENGGANU

FOR THE YEAR

1927

BY

W. M. MILLINGTON

Acting British Adviser, Trengganu

SINGAPORE:

Printed at the GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, SINGAPORE,
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1928

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Annual Report on the State of Trengganu for the year 1927

PREFATORY NOTE *

GEOGRAPHICAL

Trengganu is a Malay State on the East Coast of the Malay Peninsula lying between the parallels of 4° and $5^{\circ} 55'$ North Latitude and the meridians of $102^{\circ} 20'$ and $103^{\circ} 30'$ East Longitude. It is bordered on the North and North-west by Kelantan, on the South and South-west by Pahang, and on the East by the China Sea. The inland boundaries follow the watersheds of the four main rivers—the Besut, Trengganu, Dungun, and Kemaman.

Its area is about 5,500 square miles, roughly equal to the combined areas of Middlesex, Surrey, Kent, Sussex and Hampshire.

The configuration of the State is long and narrow—the length is approximately 150 miles and the greatest breadth 55 miles. The western and inland half of Trengganu is mountainous and almost uninhabited. The population is concentrated in the eastern half of the State along the river-plains and coastal belt. The highest peak is Gunong Batil (4,985 ft.).

The country is divided into no less than sixteen separate river basins, all of which debouch into the China Sea. The Trengganu and Kemaman rivers, the most important, can both be entered at suitable stages of the tide by sea-going steamers of several hundred tons burden; both rivers have bars with a depth of seven feet at low water. The bars of the other rivers are impassable to other than small craft, but the Besut, Setiu, Dungun and Paka are all streams of a respectable size.

The State includes the Perhentian and Redang Island groups (both of which provide good harbours in all weathers), the Kapas Island ten miles South of Trengganu (which gives good anchorage in the North-east Monsoon), and other smaller islands, of which Pulau Tenggul is the largest.

HISTORICAL

The early history of Trengganu is obscure. A Chinese monk and traveller, CHAO JU KUA, writing about A. D. 1225, mentions Trengganu as subject to the Buddhist Kingdom of Palembang in Southern Sumatra; and Javanese work, the "Nagarakretagama" (A. D. 1365), refers to both Trengganu and Dungun as subject to the Javanese Empire of Mejapahit; neither reference need be taken to imply more than a nominal suzerainty.

* In this report weights are generally given in pikuls, 16.8 of which are equivalent to one ton.

In 1923 a remarkable Malay inscription, dated 702 A. H. (1303 A. D.) was deciphered in Trengganu. The stone bearing it was found at Kuala Brang, a place 20 miles upstream from Kuala Trengganu, and is the fragment of a roughly squared pillar. The language of the inscription is Malay (with a strong admixture of Sanskrit and few Arabic words) and the script is Arabic—a combination of which there is no parallel before the year 1368 A. D. The subject of the inscription is the Islamic Law of sexual offences. It is far the earliest known record of Islam as a State religion in the Malay Peninsula, and it suggests the existence of a Mohammedan Kingdom in the upper Trengganu river a hundred years before the recorded date of the Islamic conversion of Malacca.

The stone has been placed in Raffles Museum, Singapore.

The Ruling House is descended from the Johore Bendahara ABDUL-HAMID, father of Sultan ABDUL-JALIL SHAH of Johore (1707 A.D.). The present Ruler, Sultan SULEIMAN BADARU'L-ALAM SHAH, K.C.M.G., is twelfth of the line. Pressure from the Siamese was felt early in the eighteenth century, and Sultan MANSUR (1730-1792) began the sending of a triennial tribute of Bunga Mas (gold and silver filigree flowers) to the King of Siam. In 1787 and 1791 he applied to Captain Light (founder, in 1786, of Penang) for support against them, but throughout the nineteenth century the accident of geography and the policy of her Rulers made Trengganu the point in the Peninsula least touched by either Siamese or British influence.

By Treaty made in 1909 Siam transferred her nominal suzerainty to Great Britain, the sending of the Bunga Mas ceased, and a British Agent (with Consular powers) was appointed. After amendment of the Treaty in 1919 (following the report of a Commission of Inquiry) the Agent was replaced by a British Adviser, whose advice must be asked and acted upon in all matters affecting the general administration of the country and all questions other than those touching the Mohammedan Religion.

CLIMATE

The North-east Monsoon, lasting from November to March, makes a distinct meteorological change in respect of temperature wind and rainfall. The rainfall chart shows a sharp rise in November and an abrupt fall early in the next year. The highest recorded annual rainfall on the coast is 165.5 inches; the average rainfall is about 120 inches.

In the coastal region the regular sea and land breezes modify the heat which is never at any time oppressive, and the climate is both pleasant and healthy. The wind of the

North-east Monsoon is sometimes strong enough between November and March to close the coast to shipping for short periods.

POPULATION

The population at the Census of 1921 was 153,765: 77,115 males and 76,650 females. The division by race was: Malays 145,523, Chinese 7,246, Indians 211, Europeans 34 and other nationalities 751.

The chief division by industries was as follows: fishing 9,350, agriculture 48,344, mining 531, woodworking 661, manufacture of textiles 9,334.

ADMINISTRATION

For administrative purposes the State is divided into three groups of districts—the central Division round Kuala Tiengganu, and the Eastern and Western Divisions with headquarters at Kemaman and Besut respectively.

The two latter divisions are each under the control of a State Commissioner who is assisted by an Assistant British Adviser stationed at headquarters.

LANGUAGE AND RELIGION

The language of the country is Malay, and official correspondence within the State is carried on in that language, through the medium of the Arabic script. English is little spoken or understood, but a knowledge of Roman script is spreading.

The religion of the Malays is Sunni Mohammedanism of the Shafei School.

CURRENCY

The unit of currency is the Straits Settlements silver dollar which is fixed at $2/4d$. Straits Settlements subsidiary coins are used. Some old subsidiary locally minted coins remain in circulation. They are known as "cent puteh" or "pitis" and are of two values $133\frac{1}{3}$ and $266\frac{2}{3}$ to the Straits Settlements silver dollar.

There is no Bank in the State.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Malay, English and Chinese weights and measures are used. One Koyan is 40 pikuls. One pikul (100 katis) is equivalent to $133\frac{1}{3}$ lbs.

One kati equals 16 tahils.

One gantang = One gallon = 4 chupak

One depa = 2 ela = 6 feet.

I.—General

His Excellency Sir LAURENCE GUILLEMARD, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., High Commissioner for the Malay States, retired in May and was succeeded by His Excellency Sir HUGH CLIFFORD, M. C. S., G.C.M.G., G.B.E., who was already well known in the State.

The State Council consisting of sixteen Malay members and the British Adviser met on 48 occasions.

II.—Finance

The Revenue for the year 1345 (11th July, 1926 to 29th June, 1927) amounted to \$1,364,105 as against a revised Estimate of \$1,350,000, an increase of \$62,097 on the figure for the previous year.

Increases on the receipts for 1344 occurred under the main headings of Farms, \$4,068; Marine \$2,162; Chandu and Liquors, \$35,970; Customs, \$56,994; and Miscellaneous, \$14,995.

Increases in the collections in respect of import duties on petroleum and tobacco, and export duties on tin-ore, iron-ore, para rubber and dried fish were mainly responsible for the increase under Customs.

The main decreases were under Lands, \$18,797; Police, \$1,180; Courts, \$3,173; Posts and Telegraphs, \$20,820; and Land Sales \$8,047.

The large drop in postal revenue is more apparent than real, as the figure for 1344 included a sum of \$20,204 for sale of stamps on account of stamp duties, which receipts are now credited under Miscellaneous and account in some measure for the increase under that head.

The decrease under Lands and Land Sales is due in part to the policy of Government in discouraging fresh alienations pending the settlement of existing claims to land.

The Expenditure amounted to \$1,341,410, against a revised Estimate of \$1,210,000, an increase of \$273,532 as compared with the previous year.

The following statement shows the totals of revenue and expenditure for the last five years:—

	<i>Revenue</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>
	\$	\$
1341	... 642,679	788,902
1342	... 779,032	766,534
1343	... 1,007,282	899,475
1344	... 1,302,008	1,067,878
1345	... 1,364,105	1,341,410

The total expenditure incurred against the first and second Straits Settlements Loans of \$1,000,000 each amounted to \$1,522,313 by the end of the year. Instalments of loan money actually received from the Straits Settlements Government over the same period totalled \$1,200,000, the balance of expenditure on loan works being met by an advance from the Revenue Account.

The total liabilities of the State, (including a sum of \$78,501 on account of Opium Revenue Replacement Fund), amounted to \$1,740,150, being an excess of \$1,157,445 over the assets.

III.—Production

AGRICULTURE

Rice.—The State does not produce sufficient rice for its own needs. Exact statistics are not available but it is estimated that some 8,000 acres are under wet padi and 4,000 acres under dry padi. Efforts are being made to extend these areas.

In the upper reaches of the Trengganu and Nerus Rivers, through fear of a repetition of the 1926 floods, dry padi was not planted till later than usual, but it is not considered that this had any great effect on the total production.

Methods of cultivation leave much to be desired and the yields now obtained should be susceptible of great improvement as the rayat gradually become educated to the application of more economic and scientific methods, such as the use of manures, rotation of crops, seed selection, etc.

Rubber.—The area under Para Rubber is put at approximately 18,000 acres. During the year 30,400 pikuls valued at \$2,588,788 were exported.

The only estates of any size are those of Kretai Plantations which were responsible for roughly one-third of the total export, the balance being the produce of small holdings of varying size.

Miscellaneous Crops.—Coconuts, gambier and arecanuts are also cultivated to a considerable extent. The exports for 1927 were:—

	Quantity	Value
	—	—
		\$
Copra ...	28,262 pikuls	318,760
Arecanuts ...	7,931 „	215,965
Gambier ...	26,479 „	104,060

FORESTRY

There is at present no organised Forest Department.

An officer lent by the Forest Department of the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States, carried out an exploration of the forests of the State extending over four months. His report, though disappointing as regards the Northern portion of the State, revealed the existence of a fine camphor forest of considerable extent centred on the Paka Valley.

Forest revenue amounting to \$13,855 was collected during the course of the year 1345.

Rattans to the amount of 4,340 pikuls valued at \$31,911 were exported.

FISHERIES

The 1927 fishing season proved a fairly successful one, catches and prices obtained showing increases over the preceding years.

Ninety-three thousand and sixteen pikuls of dried fish valued at \$1,135,519 and 1,673 pikuls of blachan (fish paste) valued at \$20,077 were exported during the year. Practically the whole amount exported went to Singapore.

MINING

Trengganu is undoubtedly rich in minerals but mining is practically confined at present to the Southern half of the State.

The principal minerals worked are Tin-ore, Iron-ore, Wolfram and Manganese. Graphite, Magnetite and Monazite have also been found.

There have been several applications for large selection areas, particularly for dredging, and if expectations are realised, considerable developments may be anticipated.

The output of Tin-ore from the principal mines was as follows:—

Freda Tin Dredging Company	...	7,580	pikuls
Bundi Tin Dredging Company	...	7,217	"
Kajang Kemaman Tin Mines, Ltd.	...	2,820	"
Sungai Ayam Tin Mine	...	568	"
Tebak Tin Fields	...	463	"

Wolfram is worked at the Chendrong Mines at Kemaman. The output for 1927 was 1,103 pikuls.

The Nanyo Kogyo Koshi won from their mine at Machang Satahun 49,038 tons of manganeferous iron-ore.

The following is a comparative statement of exports of tin-ore, wolfram and iron-ore for the last five years:—

Year	TIN-ORE		WOLFRAM		IRON-ORE	
	Pikuls	Value	Pikuls	Value	Tons	Value
		\$		\$		\$
1923 ...	7,955	482,172	4,700	85,110	...	...
1924 ...	9,701	739,111	2,909	43,050	...	...
1925 ...	16,178	1,283,486	1,294	20,326	7,690	69,204
1926 ...	12,816	1,167,751	1,995	40,369	45,511	349,864
1927 ...	19,572	1,919,524	980	18,592	48,505	372,012

An officer of the Federated Malay States Mines Department made a tour of inspection of the mining areas and submitted in his report recommendations for the better control of mining within the State.

IV.—Trade and Economics

The total value of the trade of the State for the year 1927 was \$14,309,227 as against \$13,967,951 in 1926, an increase of \$341,272. The excess of the value of exports over imports was \$2,179,731.

Details are given in Appendix (A).

The total value of imports was \$6,064,748 as against \$5,915,560 in 1926.

Comparative figures for 1925, 1926 and 1927, are given below in respect of the more important articles imported from Singapore.

Articles	1925	1926	1927
	\$	\$	\$
Sugar ...	203,740	215,335	263,074
Tinned Milk ...	71,794	83,498	104,070
Tobacco, cigars and cigarettes	281,504	330,420	349,953
Cotton stuffs ...	576,362	465,041	446,095
Petroleum ...	110,243	146,413	149,407
Silk and silk fabrics	810,946	439,262	222,679
Liquors ...	46,458	53,259	60,527
Motor Cars ...	53,876	140,184	65,883
Machinery ...	44,137	59,563	117,975
Rice ...	... (no figure)	1,227,728	841,837

The total value of exports was \$8,244,479 as against \$8,052,391 in 1926.

The principal exports from Trengganu to all countries were as follows :—

<i>Articles</i>	<i>1925</i>	<i>1926</i>	<i>1927</i>
—	—	—	—
	\$	\$	\$
Copra ...	337,329	427,564	318,760
Dried fish ...	1,181,710	970,059	1,135,519
Tin-ore ...	1,348,963	1,167,752	1,919,524
Wolfram ...	110,326	40,369	18,592
Hæmatite ...	79,204	349,864	372,012
Para Rubber ...	434,286	2,975,455	2,588,788
Gambier ...	39,491	56,208	104,060
Areca-nuts ...	303,907	253,301	215,965
Pure silk sarongs	555,417	524,926	328,952
Part silk sarongs	504,599	342,405	107,389

The drop in the export of sarongs marks a further decline in an industry for which Trengganu has long been famous. The decrease has been attributed to the recent settlement in Johore of large numbers of skilled Trengganu weavers who have captured part of the Singapore market. Another potent factor is undoubtedly the inferiority of the article now turned out as compared with former days, due in part to the use of unsatisfactory chemical dyes in preference to the “fast” native vegetable dyes.

Another village industry is the manufacture of brass and nickel ware. Owing to the heaviness of the ware little is exported but there is a considerable local trade.

Iron work, agricultural implements, and weapons are also manufactured locally.

Boat building and the rope and net making industries provide employment for large numbers of the maritime population.

V.—Communications

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

There are nine Post Offices. The telegraph line from Kuala Trengganu to Kemaman and the Pahang boundary was maintained and improved. There are small telephone exchanges at Kuala Trengganu, Kemaman and Besut. A Phonopore is used for communication with stations between Kuala Trengganu and Kemaman. This department's receipts decreased from \$22,280 in 1344 A.H. to \$21,663 in A.H. 1345.

ROADS

Thirty-two miles of road were open to traffic, comprising 20 miles at Kuala Trengganu, 6 miles at Kemaman and 6 at Besut.

Fair progress was made with the trunk road from Kuala Trengganu to the Kelantan boundary. Work was carried out at both ends with local Malay labour under the supervision of two Assistant Engineers working under the State Engineer. When completed this road will be 60 miles in length.

Work on the Chukai-Ayer Puteh road Kemaman was continued. The distance is 20 miles.

The mileage of completed bridlepaths was brought up to 35. \$5,000 was spent for this purpose during the year.

The many rivers form the usual highways to the interior of the State. All of these are shallow except for a few miles at the mouth but are navigable by boats of light draught.

SHIPPING

The Siam Steam Navigation Company's steamers plying between Singapore and Bangkok called regularly at Kuala Trengganu, Kemaman and Kretai except during the North-east Monsoon. These steamers are unable to enter the rivers.

Smaller vessels belonging to the same Company and Chinese owned steamers maintained irregular services between Singapore and all stations on the coast. At Kuala Trengganu and Kemaman these vessels enter the rivers.

VI.—Justice, Police and Prisons

In the administration of Justice Mohammedan Law, as modified by specific legislation, is followed. There is no Penal Code and no codified law of evidence or procedure. The work of the lower courts is consequently not always satisfactory or expeditious.

During the course of the year the existing courts were added to by the establishment of a Special Court at Besut, and Land Courts at Kuala Trengganu, Kemaman and Besut.

A Special Court at Kemaman has already been existence for nearly two years. This court is presided over jointly by the State Commissioner and Assistant British Adviser for the district. Its jurisdiction is co-extensive with that of the Supreme Court. All cases between foreigners come before it and, with the sanction of Government, it is empowered to hear other cases in the district which would otherwise go before the Supreme Court.

The Special Court at Besut is similarly constituted.

In practice the Special Courts have now relieved the Supreme Court from the necessity of hearing cases outside Kuala Trengganu, thereby, (as there is only one judge of the Supreme Court) greatly accelerating conduct of litigation.

With the establishment of the Land Courts, jurisdiction in matters affecting land and interests in land which cannot be dealt with by the Commissioner of Lands or Collectors under the Land Enactment, has been definitely taken away from the Supreme and Magistrates Courts, which usually had no very clear conception of the basic principles involved or of the necessity for a practical, and not purely hypothetical, decision.

In the districts the personnel of the Land Court is identical with that of the Special Court. In Kuala Trengganu it consists of the Commissioner of Lands and the Judge of the Supreme Court sitting together.

In addition to its original jurisdiction it has also certain appellate powers.

During 1345 three Enactments were passed, *viz.*, the Acquisition of Land (Amendment) Enactment, the Stamp Enactment and the Mining Enactment.

Five Regulations (Peraturan) were issued and thirty-five Proclamations (Ishtihar) published.

Judicial statistics for the State are given in Appendix (B).

POLICE

The actual strength of the Police Force at the end of 1345 was 261 as against a sanctioned strength of 268.

For the greater part of the year the force was considerably under strength. Recruitment sank to such an extent, probably due to attractive rates of pay for casual labour elsewhere, that bonuses of \$5 for each recruit and \$5 for his recruiter had to be offered. As a result the position had improved considerably by the end of the year. A new and improved scale of pay was approved.

Discipline was fair. The number of offences recorded showed a large increase on the figure for the previous year. This however, is attributed largely to the higher standard of discipline now demanded.

Owing to the lack of recruits, training suffered considerably.

At the close of the year there were 20 Police Stations, of which eight were District Headquarters Stations, and three Police Posts.

The revenue collected was \$15,768 as compared with \$16,948 in 1344.

The total number of reports recorded was 5,610, compared with 4,720 in 1344, 3,630 in 1343 and 2,517 in 1342. Of these 1,955 were for seizable and 3,658 for non-seizable offences.

A statement of the serious offences reported is given below, figures for previous years being given for comparison:—

<i>Offences</i>	<i>1342</i>	<i>1343</i>	<i>1344</i>	<i>1345</i>
Murder Homicide ...	9	7	6	3
Gang Robbery ...	2	1	2	—
Robbery ...	29	40	20	3
House breaking ...	60	69	47	49
Thefts (over \$100) ...	50	63	74	54
Thefts of cattle ...	62	81	41	42
Counterfeit coins and notes	6	15	37	19
Mischief by fire ...	5	27	61	21
Grievous Hurt ...	22	21	43	28
	<u>245</u>	<u>324</u>	<u>331</u>	<u>219</u>

These figures indicate a remarkable reduction in crime, especially when it is borne in mind that the efficiency of the Police as detectors of crime has undoubtedly increased in recent years. It is noteworthy that for the first time in many years no reports of gang robbery were received.

Close liaison was maintained with the Criminal Registry, Kuala Lumpur for enquiries and registration of convicted persons.

The Prevention of Crimes Enactment, 1344, has proved very efficacious. The systematic photographing of bad characters was continued, 185 person being added to the record during the year.

PRISONS

There is only one Prison in the State, situated in Kuala Trengganu. The building is not satisfactory and when funds permit a new building will be erected further away from the Town. A new ward for female prisoners and several structural improvements were completed during the year.

The records of admission and discharge were—

—		No. remain- ing at end of 1344	Admitted in 1345	Discharged in 1345	Executed in 1346	Escaped	Deaths	No. remain- ing at end of 1345
Males	...	90	181	181	...	1	2	87
Females	...	2	23	22	...	...	...	3
Total	...	92	204	203	...	1	2	90

The health of the Prison has been good. Many of the prisoners are ill nourished and weakly on admission, and gain in health by their sojourn in Gaol.

Nine thousand one hundred and ninety-two days of extra-mural labour were performed, chiefly for the Public Works Department, and 3,695 days of intra-mural labour, chiefly at wood chopping and basket making.

The revenue derived from intra-mural labour was \$2,022 as against \$1,998 in previous year.

VII.—Public Works

The total expenditure during A. H. 1345 was \$603,300 out of \$876,251 provided. \$300,663 of this was out of Loan Account. With few exceptions all works were carried out departmentally.

Special Services, Buildings, Revenue Account, amounted to \$149,508. Twelve buildings were completed. Seven buildings each of the value of \$3,000 or over were partly completed. A small electric light plant was installed at Kuala Trengganu Hospital. \$5,065 was spent on maintenance of existing buildings.

A Customs Wharf at Chukai, Kemaman, an ice making plant at Kuala Trengganu and a ferry ramp at Losong were completed.

Special Services in connection with improvements to existing roads cost \$35,668. Upkeep of roads amounted to \$27,550.

A small school for artisans was started in connection with the Public Works Department Workshop.

VIII.—Public Health

There is a hospital at Kuala Trengganu with accommodation for 68 patients. There are dispensaries at Kemaman and Kuala Trengganu. At Kuala Trengganu there is a Gaol Hospital.

One Travelling Dresser was at work when he could be spared from the Hospital.

The number of admissions to hospital was 892 as compared with 763 in 1926. The following diseases were most in evidence :

Yaws	...	...	152	no deaths
Malaria	...	...	84	3 "
Bowel diseases	...	...	185	2 "
Beri-beri	...	...	45	2 "
Influenza	...	...	65	no deaths
Venereal diseases	...	...	96	" "
Pulmonary tuberculosis	...	...	17	7 "

Eleven normal labours were conducted in the General Ward at the Hospital as compared with three during 1926. A maternity ward was in course of construction. One hundred and thirty surgical operations, including 24 major operations, were performed.

At the Gaol Hospital there were 136 admissions with one death as against 224 admissions and six deaths in 1926. The Gaol sanitation was attended to carefully.

The total number of patients treated was 20,147 compared with 18,965.

The prevailing diseases in the State as recorded are given below :—

	1926	1927
Yaws	4,828	2,168
Diseases of digestive system	1,641	2,590
Diseases of the skin	1,578	2,997
Diseases due to intestinal parasites	1,396	1,324
Fever unspecified	1,236	574
Malaria	1,007	2,016
Influenza	831	1,173
Diseases of the respiratory system	400	512
Beri-beri	260	536

The above figures may be taken to represent the relative incidence of the more common diseases.

The Medical Officer reports that it is unusual to find a peasant without skin disease. The principles of personal hygiene are filtering slowly through the town dwellers with

the result that skin diseases amongst them are diminishing. Beri-beri assumed serious proportions due to the exceptionally severe North-east Monsoon with unprecedented floods.

The Medical Officer has not yet seen a case of malaria contracted along the seaboard where the principal towns are situated. Malaria is common inland.

The natives are enthusiastic in their appreciation of the results of treatment of yaws, and preparations have been made to extend the area in which treatment is given. Yaws is one of the chief causes of disability in the State.

European Officers reside along the sea coast where health conditions are good. Malaria affects the European planters and miners living near the foothills.

The appointment of a Health Officer in 1928 has been approved. The chief diseases in the State are preventable. The Health Officer will organise preventive measures.

Three new dispensaries were under construction and arrangements have been made to secure experienced dressers from the Straits Settlements to take charge of these.

IX.—Education

The number of Malay Boys' Schools was increased to 15 by the opening of a new school at Kuala Brang. The numbers of teachers and assistant teachers were 17 and 25 respectively.

At Paya Bunga School a special course was provided for boys who had passed Standard IV and wished to enter Government Service.

In the English School at Kuala Trengganu the number of pupils decreased from 40 in A. H. 1344 to 35 in A. H. 1345, but the average attendance rose from 60 per cent to 77 per cent. The English night school for clerks at Kemaman was continued.

The number of Government Schools, enrolment and attendance for the last three years are shown below:—

	No. of Schools	Average enrolment			Average attendance			Percentage of Attendance		
		1343	1344	1345	1343	1344	1345	1343	1344	1345
English School ...	1	38	40	35	20	24	27	53	60	77
Malay Schools ...	15	1,092	1,344	1,556	833	996	1,115	76	75	72

CHINESE SCHOOLS

The number of pupils on the roll of the WEI SIN School at Kuala Trengganu was 110 boys and 35 girls. The school has a staff of eight teachers and is maintained by voluntary subscriptions by the Chinese community. A smaller school is maintained at Kemaman.

In Kuala Trengganu there were two troops of Boy Scouts, the Sultan Suleiman Troops drawn from the Malay Schools, and a Chinese Troop run in connection with the WEI SIN School. Each troop had its own band and showed considerable keenness.

Four students were maintained at the Malay College, Kuala Kangsar, six at King Edward VII School, Taiping, and eight at the Sultan Idris Training College, Tanjong Malim.

Three students at the Sultan Idris Training College finished their course. One obtained a Third Class certificate.

The cost of the Education Department exclusive of cost and maintenance of buildings for the last three years was: --

<i>Year</i>	<i>1343</i>	<i>1344</i>	<i>1345</i>
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	\$	\$	\$
Cost ...	21,355	22,203	26,591

X.—Lands and Survey

LANDS AND MINES

The total revenue collected under this head during 1345, including premia on sales of land, amounted to \$104,283 as against \$131,126 in 1344. The drop is due mainly to decreases in the collections in respect of premia, survey and settlement fees. Details are given in Appendix (C).

The land problem in Trengganu presents peculiar difficulties. Particular care has had to be exercised in the working of the recent Land Enactment, (based on the Torrens system), to ensure that the principles of Mohammedan Law should not be infringed. This difficulty has been further accentuated by the general ignorance of the rayat and their suspicion and lack of comprehension, at times judiciously fostered, as to the objects of this new legislation. There is still a certain amount of organised opposition to the payment of rent as well as obstruction, often in the least expected quarter, on the part of interested parties claiming, by virtue of gift from previous rulers, large vaguely defined areas frequently in face of adverse occupation.

It has consequently been the policy of Government to restrain as far as possible fresh alienations until existing claims have been settled.

SURVEY

The work done by the Survey Department during the year included 4,583 extracts prepared; 114 miles of standard traverse run; 102 settlement tracings of survey sent; 48 plans and tracings made for other departments, eight Mukims close traversed for plotting; 95 file plans drawn and registered; 99 grants and mining leases drawn and issued. Thirty-three trigonometrical beacons were made.

The total expenditure of the department for 1345 amounted to \$55,718.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

The geological survey of the State was continued throughout the year and the results of the investigations have been published in a report from which a few short extracts are appended:

“At present the bulk of the minerals are found in a comparatively small area in the Kemaman district, within a belt measuring some 15 miles at its greatest width, trending approximately North by West and South by East.....

“Within the same belt, to the South in Pahang territory, is the well known Pahang Consolidated Company's mine at Sungei Lembing. The belt continues North by West from the Sungei Kemaman, and tin, iron and tungsten occasionally, are found up to the Sungei Dungun and the head waters of the Sungei Tersat and Sungei Brang. North of the Sungei Dungun-Sungei Tersat area there is no record of the occurrence of metalliferous deposits.....

“Given the belt.....to be a continuation of the Sungei Lembing (Pahang) lodes, as seems practically certain, the tin-lodes would traverse a stretch of country (reckoning only as far as Sungei Dungun) some 52 miles long.....”

XI.—Labour

The majority of the labourers in the State are drawn from the native Malays and from Chinese and Indian immigrants.

It is a feature in contrast to the Federated Malay States that the Malay still offers himself for employment as a labourer. His work however has a tendency to be irregular and sporadic.

There are comparatively few Indian labourers.

The labour employed on Public Services was almost entirely Malay.

The labour force on the only large plantation (coconuts and rubber) consisted of Chinese with a sprinkling of Malays. There was a fairly even distribution of Chinese and Malays engaged in agricultural work on smaller estates.

On the mines Chinese, Malay and Indians, in order of numbers, were employed.

There is no Labour Department. Immigration is uncontrolled and takes place mainly from Singapore, though there is also some direct traffic by junk.

XII.—Miscellaneous

His Highness the Sultan celebrated his 33rd birthday on the 8th December, and the eighth anniversary of his accession to the throne on 17th December.

During the year His Highness accompanied by his suite, paid a visit to Singapore and Java, being absent from the State from 16th July till 27th August.

His Excellency the High Commissioner accompanied by His Excellency the General Officer Commanding the Troops paid his annual visit to the State in September.

Mr. J. W. SIMMONS was British Adviser till 16th October when he proceeded on leave. He was succeeded as from 27th December by Mr. W. M. MILLINGTON. During the interval Mr. G. A. DE C. DE MOUBRAY acted in the post.

The new appointments of Assistant Adviser, Besut, and Settlement Collector were filled by officers seconded from the Malayan Civil Service.

W. M. MILLINGTON,
Acting British Adviser,
Trengganu.

APPENDIX A. TOTAL EXPORTS FROM TRENGGANU, 1927

ARTICLES	How Stated	TO SINGAPORE		TO OTHER COUNTRIES		TOTAL	
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
A.—ANIMALS, FOOD, DRINKS AND TOBACCO							
Rice	Pikuls	1,023	6,636	10,084	85,819	11,107	92,455
Dried fish	"	90,204	1,106,912	2,812	28,607	93,016	1,135,519
Blachan	"	683	8,197	990	11,880	1,673	20,077
Salt	"	840	360	7,779	4,741	8,619	5,101
Sugar	"	...	...	3,675	35,513	3,675	35,513
Other Articles	Value	...	316,436	...	75,436	...	391,872
Total Class A	...	...	1,438,541	...	241,996	...	1,680,537
B.—RAW MATERIALS							
Tin-ore	Pikuls	19,572	1,919,524	...	...	19,572	1,919,524
Arecanute	"	1,093	23,450	6,838	192,515	7,931	215,965
Copra	"	28,262	318,760	...	...	28,262	318,760
Gambier	"	49	26,430	1,370	77,630	1,419	104,060
Para Rubber	"	28,146	2,435,796	2,354	152,992	30,500	2,588,788
Rattan	"	4,061	29,225	279	2,686	4,340	31,911
Other Articles	Value	...	143,090	...	411,618	...	554,708
Total Class B	...	...	4,896,275	...	837,441	...	5,733,716

APPENDIX A.—Continued
TOTAL EXPORTS FROM TRENGGANU, 1927—Continued

ARTICLES	How Stated	TO SINGAPORE		TO OTHER COUNTRIES		TOTAL	
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
C.—MANUFACTURED ARTICLES							
Silk Sarongs (pure)	Numbers	113,616	208,850	22,598	120,102	136,214	328,952
Half Silk Sarongs	"	32,327	85,523	8,438	21,866	40,765	107,389
Cotton Goods	Yards	2,298	711	101,708	18,150	104,006	18,861
Other Articles	Value	...	174,930	...	171,574	...	346,504
Total Class C	...	...	470,014	...	331,692	...	801,706
D.—PARCEL POST							
Total value of Parcel Post D	...	...	27,084	...	35	...	27,119
E.—COIN AND BULLION							
Silver—	(Total value)	...	...	...	1,400	...	1,400

SUMMARY

Total Class A	..	..	..	..	\$ 1,680,538
" B	..	..	..	..	5,733,716
" C	..	..	..	..	801,706
" D	..	..	..	..	27,119
" E	..	..	..	..	1,400
Total Export Trade	..	..	..	..	8,244,479

APPENDIX A.—Continued
TOTAL IMPORTS INTO TRENGGANU, 1927

ARTICLES	How Stated	FROM SINGAPORE		FROM OTHER COUNTRIES		TOTAL	
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
A.—ANIMALS, FOOD, DRINKS AND TOBACCO							
Rice	Pikuls	117,944	841,837	211,553	1,356,583	329,497	2,198,420
Other Grains	"	456	7,624	...	...	456	7,624
Milk	Cases	9,053	104,070	...	...	9,053	104,070
Salt	Pikuls	2,229	4,192	23,445	33,138	25,674	37,330
Sugar	"	33,443	263,074	...	...	33,443	263,074
Tobacco	Lbs.	128,883	103,054	19,853	9,187	148,736	112,241
Cigarettes and Cigars	"	97,647	246,899	58	244	97,705	247,143
Other Articles	Value	...	588,301	...	25,624	...	613,925
Total Class A	...	...	2,159,051	...	1,424,776	...	3,583,827
B.—RAW MATERIALS							
Petroleum	Gallons	246,599	149,407	...	...	246,599	149,407
Other Articles	Value	...	217,541	...	4,282	...	221,623
Total Class B	...	...	366,748	...	4,282	...	371,030

TOTAL IMPORTS INTO TRENGGANU, 1927—Continued

21

ARTICLES	How Stated	FROM SINGAPORE		FROM OTHER COUNTRIES		TOTAL	
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
C.—MANUFACTURED ARTICLES							
Dyed Cotton Goods	...	394,544	\$ 104,467	5,094 00	1,989	399,638 00	\$ 106,456
Thread	...	890	111,953	60	96	890 60	112,049
Sarong	...	234,776	229,675	6,360 00	9,355	241,136 00	239,030
Machinery	117,975	...	7,637	...	125,612
Silk	...	392	222,679	...	...	392 00	222,679
Other Articles	1,129,853	...	51,222	...	1,181,075
Total Class C	1,916,602	...	70,299	...	1,986,901
D.—PARCEL POST							
Total value of Parcel Post (D)	114,261	...	20	...	114,281
E.—COIN AND BULLION							
Total.	8,709	...	...	...	8,709

		SUMMARY		\$	
Total Class A	3,583,827
" B	371,030
" C	1,986,901
" D	114,281
" E	8,709
Total Imports Trade	6,064,748

APPENDIX B.

STATEMENT OF WORK PERFORMED IN ALL COURTS DURING A. H. 1345

Courts	1344 cases undecided on 1-1-1345		No. of cases instituted		No. of cases disposed of		No. of cases pending at end of 1345	
	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal
Appeal Court	7	1	37	11	33	9	11	3
Supreme Court—								
Original Jurisdiction	3	4	13	75	11	78	5	1
Appellate Jurisdiction	13	7	101	73	106	69	8	11
Special Court, Kemaman	...	...	14	13	13	13	1	...
Magistrate Courts—								
Kuala Trengganu	28	1	209	1,060	209	996	28	65
Kemaman	22	26	150	276	170	302	2	...
Besut	33	16	193	404	214	414	12	6
Kemasik	2	6	41	160	42	154	1	12
Kretai	8	24	13	128	6	109	15	43
Paka	3	...	15	65	18	64	...	1
Dungun	11	8	27	83	23	89	15	2
Marang	...	4	48	165	36	163	12	6
Kuala Brang	...	1	32	90	24	86	8	5
Kathi's Court, Kuala Trengganu	4	5	116	67	110	68	10	4
Total	134	103	1,009	2,670	1,015	2,614	128	159

STATEMENT OF LAND REVENUE, 1345

No.	Details of Revenue	Kuala Trengganu				State Commissioner—East					State Commissioner—West		Total
		Kuala Trengganu	Kuala Brang	Marang	Kemaman	Kemasik	Kretai	Paka	Dungun	Besut and Setiu			
<i>Lands and Mines</i>													
1	Land Rents	2,911	2,262	1,826	11,846	4,668	1,564	7,962	652	6,117	39,808		
2	Mining Rents	8,438	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,438		
3	Permits, Forest Produce	67	3,553	559	2,369	625	371	786	973	2,259	12,112		
4	Licences to sell Forest Produce	410	225	88	340	30	90	90	210	260	1,743		
5	Temporary Occupation Licence	1,194	567	298	523	121	78	141	792	404	4,118		
6	Prospecting Licences	970	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	970		
7	Notice Fees	500	39	54	97	...	1	3	34	373	1,101		
8	Registration Fees	549	46	18	261	183	10	.8	1	285	1,361		
9	Sale of Plans	207	...	...	75	159	...	...	...	...	441		
10	Miscellaneous	160	40	18	18	39	4	60	...	12	333		
11	Survey Fees	5,290	195	150	5,030	450	489	4,276	4	274	16,158		
12	Settlement Fees	2,806	985	139	308	60	8	304	250	944	5,804		
Total		24,053	7,912	3,132	20,867	6,335	2,614	13,630	2,916	10,928	92,387		
<i>Land Sales</i>													
1	Agricultural Land	1,379	743	95	3,011	93	122	1,145	122	566	7,276		
2	Mining Land	4,620	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,620		
Total Land Sales		5,999	743	95	3,011	93	122	1,145	122	566	11,896		
Grand Total		30,052	8,655	3,227	23,878	6,428	2,736	14,775	3,038	11,494	104,283		

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BRITISH ADVISER TO THE KEDAH GOVERNMENT

for the year 1345 A.H.

(12TH JULY, 1926—30TH JUNE, 1927)

BY

T. W. CLAYTON,

British Adviser to the Kedah Government,

WITH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BRITISH ADVISER TO THE PERLIS GOVERNMENT

FOR THE SAME PERIOD

BY

P. S. WILLIAMS,

Acting British Adviser to the Perlis Government.



Alor Star:

PRINTED AT THE KEDAH GOVERNMENT PRESS.

1928.

100

STATE OF KEDAH.

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STATE OF KEDAH.

ANNUAL REPORT.

FOR THE YEAR A.H. 1345 (12TH JULY, 1926 TO
30TH JUNE, 1927).

[*The value of the dollar is 2s. 4d.*]

[*A picul is 133½ pounds av.*]

PREFATORY NOTE.

I.—GEOGRAPHICAL.

1. Kedah is a Malay State on the West Coast of the Malay Peninsula, situated between the parallels of 5.50 and 6.40 North Latitude and the meridians of 99.40 and 100.55 East Longitude. It is bordered on the interior by the Siamese States of Singora and Patani, and by the State of Perak (Federated Malay States); it extends northwards on the sea coast to the River Sanglang, its boundary with its northern neighbour, the State of Perlis (under British protection), and southwards to the Muda River, its boundary with Province Wellesley in the south: thence the State extends behind Province Wellesley down to the northern bank of the Krian River, which forms its boundary with Perak.

2. The State includes the island of Langkawi, and a number of adjoining islands, of which Pulau Tuba is the largest. The mainland of Kedah is about 105 miles in length, and at its widest part is about 40 miles in width. Its area including the Langkawi group of islands is about 3,150 square miles. The two highest peaks of the mainland are Gunong Jerai—better known as Kedah Peak (3,986 feet)—and Bukit Perak (2,820 feet). Gunong Raia on Langkawi Island is 2,950 feet high.

II.—HISTORICAL.

3. The earliest references to Kedah with its capital Langkasuka are to be found in the “Hikayat Marong Mahawangsa” or “Kedah Annals”. Various mention of Queddah is made by Portuguese and Dutch writers and in 1592 Captain Lancaster called at Pulopinaon (Penang).

4. During the next 200 years the fortunes of Kedah varied under the rule of Siam until, in 1786 A.D. under Captain Light's "Agreement with the King of Queddah for the cession of Prince of Wales' Island", Penang was occupied and the British Flag hoisted there on 12th August, 1786.

5. This Agreement was modified by Treaty in 1791 whereby the Kedah Government was to receive \$6,000 every year from the Honourable East India Company "so long as the English continue in possession of Pulo Pinang". In 1800 the strip of coast territory now known as Province Wellesley was ceded to the Honourable East India Company in return for a further \$4,000 per annum. These annual payments are still made by the Straits Settlements Government.

6. Upon the occupation of Kedah in 1821 A.D., the Siamese Government divided the kingdom of Kedah into four parts: Setul, Perlis, Kubang Pasu and Kedah, placing each under a separate ruler. In A.D. 1843, the Sultan of Kedah (who after his escape to Province Wellesley in 1821 had lived in retreat in Malacca) was allowed to return to Alor Star, and to reassume the rulership of the last mentioned of these four parts. Setul, Perlis, and Kubang Pasu, however, remained under their separate rulers, who were made independent of the Sultan of Kedah.

7. Kubang Pasu is a sparsely populated district in the interior of Kedah, between Kota Star and the Singora frontier, and when Tunku Anum, the Rajah of Kubang Pasu, died some years later, the Siamese Government allowed the district to again become part of Kedah. It is now administered by a District Officer. The Raja of Perlis is independent of the Sultan of Kedah, and has an entirely separate Government. Setul is now a part of Siam.

8. His Highness Sir Abdul Hamid Halimshah, K.C.M.G., ibni Sultan Ahmad Tajudin, the present Sultan, succeeded to the throne in the year A.D. 1881. In consequence of His Highness' bad health, his eldest son H. H. Tunku Ibrahim, C.M.G., C.V.O., has acted as Regent since the year 1914.

9. On the 23rd July, 1905, the Sultan issued an Edict appointing a Council of State to assist in the "Administration of all Public Affairs".

10. On the 10th March, 1909, the Anglo-Siamese Treaty was signed, whereby the sovereignty of Kedah was transferred from Siam to Great Britain.

11. On the 1st November, 1923, at Singapore, a treaty was signed between the British and the Kedah Governments, by which the Kedah Government agreed to continue under the protection of His Britannic Majesty, who shall exercise the rights of suzerainty, and also to accept a British Adviser.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1345.

I.—FINANCIAL.

1. The revenue for 1345 amounted to \$8,983,429 as compared with \$9,179,487 in 1344. Actual revenue exceeded the estimate by \$1,647,568.

2. The actual revenue was only \$191,058 less than in 1344, notwithstanding a decrease of \$799,758 in rubber duty. Customs, Opium Monopoly, Farms and Licenses, Reimbursements, Forests, Posts and Telegraphs and Sanitary Boards contributed chiefly to the excess of revenue over the estimate.

3. The percentage contributions of the principal heads of revenue to the total revenue during the last ten years were as follows:—

Heads.	1336	1337	1338	1339	1340	1341	1342	1343	1344	1345
Opium Monopoly ...	44	45	45	30	31	30	30	33½	26½	29½
Liquor and Tobacco ...	8½	9½	9½	11	8½	8½	9½	9½	10½	11½
Customs (Other heads) ...	12½	10½	11½	10	11	18½	18½	20	31	24½
Land Revenue including Land Sales ...	17	18	20	25½	18	17	18	18½	15	14½
Other Heads ...	18	17	14	23½	31½	25½	24½	19½	17	19½
TOTAL ...	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

4. The total expenditure in 1345 was \$6,396,507 as compared with \$5,481,218 for 1344, and an estimate of \$7,047,595.

5. The following table shows the total cost of Personal Emoluments (including Ruling House Allowances and Pensions) during the last seven years and the percentage it bears to the Revenue and Expenditure:—

Personal Emoluments	1339	1340	1341	1342	1343	1344	1345
	\$2630044	2623699	2629647	2738082	2849676	2900628	3047119
Revenue	50%	53%	50½%	50%	47½%	31½%	34%
Expenditure	48%	50%	49½%	55%	50%	53%	47½%

6. Investments stood at \$7,617,405 at the beginning of the year, and at the close of the year amounted to \$10,106,283.

The following is a list of securities:—

Security.	Actual cost.	Market value.	Redemption value.	Yield p.a.
	\$	\$	\$	
1. 4½% Singapore Municipal loan...	71,863	84,545	84,545	6½%
2. 4% -ditto- 1963.	314,475	377,370	419,300	6½%
3. S.S. & F.M.S. 5% Victory Loan ...	2,496,824	2,605,200	2,505,000	5%
4. South Manchuria 5% Railway Loan, 1918 ...	1,421,161	1,337,143	1,714,300	7%
5. Fixed Deposits, 4½% ...	2,904,676	2,904,676	2,904,676	4½%
6. British 3½% Conversion Loan ...	964,687	977,143	1,285,714	5½%
7. N. Z. 4½% L. Stock, 1945 ...	658,567	658,567	658,714	5%
8. W. A. 5% L. Stock, 1975 ...	429,795	428,571	428,571	5%
9. British 4½% Conversion Loan, 1944 ...	1,841,235	822,857	857,142	4½%
TOTAL ...	10,106,283	10,196,072	10,884,962	5½%

7. The excess of assets at the end of the year amounted to \$6,303,777, which does not include the sum of \$3,922,500 placed to the Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve, or the \$119,560 set aside as an Investments Depreciation Reserve.

The following are shown in appendices:—

Appendix 'A'—Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Appendix 'B'—Statement of Revenue for the last 5 years.

Appendix 'C'—Statement of Expenditure for the last 5 years.

II.—STATE COUNCIL AND LEGISLATION.

8. There were 48 meetings of the State Council at which in addition to the ordinary work of Administration the following Enactments were passed:—

1. The Pensions (Amendment) Enactment.
2. The Labour Code.
3. The Administration of Estates (Amendment) Enactment.
4. The Co-operative Societies Enactment.
5. The Deleterious Drugs 1338, Amendment Enactment.
6. The Export of Rubber (Restriction) (Amendment) Enactment.
7. The Chandu (Amendment) Enactment.
8. The Sanitary Board (Amendment) Enactment.
9. The Forest Enactment.
10. The Civil Procedure Code (Amendment) Enactment.
11. The Land (Amendment) Enactment.
12. The Customs (Amendment) Enactment.
13. The Export of Rubber (Restriction) (Amendment) Enactment.
14. The Sharaiah Courts (Amendment) Enactment.
15. The Penal Code.

9. Rules regulations etc. by the State Council under the following Enactments were passed during the year:—

- The Administration of Estates 1337.
- The Co-operative Societies Enactment 1345.
- The Post Office Enactment 1333.
- The Forest Enactment 1345.
- The Export of Rubber (Restriction) Enactment 1341.
- The Malay Reservations Enactment 1340.
- The Affirmations Enactment 1336.
- The Labour Code 1345.
- The Land Enactment 1332.
- The Small Offences Enactment 1333.
- The Sanitary Board Enactment 1334.
- The Customs Enactment 1343.
- The Police Force Enactment 1334.
- The Extradition Enactment 1334.
- The Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments Enactment 1342.
- The Sharaiah Courts Enactment 1337.
- The Motor Cars Enactment 1343.
- The Quarantine and Prevention of Diseases (Animals) Enactment 1343.

III.—LANDS.

10. The revenue for the year A.H. 1345 was \$1,311,558 or \$4,282 less than the revenue for the preceding year. The comparative figures under the different heads are given below:—

	1344	1345	<i>Estimate</i> 1345
	\$	\$	\$
Premium ..	337,843	448,503	401,625
Land Tax and Rent ..	651,884	655,779	652,000
Commission ..	199,289	78,833	100,000
Registration Fees ..	30,293	26,098	24,875
Survey Fees ..	48,032	52,864	30,950
Boundary Marks ..	5,196	5,749	2,230
Miscellaneous ..	43,303	43,732	43,800
Total ..	1,315,840	1,311,558	1,255,480

11. The distribution of revenue according to Offices was as follows:—

	1344	1345	<i>Estimate</i> 1945
	\$	\$	\$
Kota Star ..	227,179	199,281	191,200
Kubang Pasu ..	115,365	101,822	97,050
Yen ..	36,134	33,384	30,850
Langkawi. .	20,927	16,030	14,960
Padang Trap ..	14,699	12,985	12,660
Kuala Muda ..	317,665	287,307	353,000
Kulim ..	402,327	457,979	367,500
Bandar Bahru ..	129,220	139,415	103,700
Baling ..	39,603	49,692	73,700
Sik ..	12,721	13,663	10,860
<hr/>			
Total ..	1,315,840	1,311,558	1,255,480
<hr/>			

12. The chief increase is under the head Premium. Commission on sales showed a decrease of \$121,000. Land tax and rent showed normal increases.

13. There were no arrears of rent at the end of the year. The system of showing excess premium on the rent rolls as arrears has kept the figures high in the past, and a change in this respect has enabled the true arrears to be reduced to nothing.

14. The expenditure was \$261,777 against \$248,456 in 1344.

15. Minor amendments of the Land laws were made during the year:—

(a) Land Officers were given restricted powers of alienation:

(b) a higher scale of rent, providing for enhancement, was imposed to replace, for new alienations, the inadequate older scale.

16. A change in the 'Akuan' system, whereby a transfer is effected by indorsement instead of by the substitution of a new document has lightened the work of the Land Offices, and much saving of time is expected from the use of carbon copy receipts in the collection of rents.

17. Considerable areas of land throughout the State were constituted "Malay Reservation Areas", the effect of which is to restrict ownership and use of the land to Malays, with the object of providing for immediate settlement of Malays, and the preservation of land for their successors.

18. Forty two applications totalling 20,994 relongs for blocks of over 50 relongs, and 5,071 applications totalling 28,664 relongs for small holdings were received. Most of the applications for large holdings were refused, as they overlapped auction or reserved areas.

The demand for rubber land is still active, but North Kedah is closed to rubber, and in South Kedah there is little suitable land remaining.

19. The Land Offices are still behindhand in dealing with applications for small areas, although progress has been somewhat accelerated. The power given to Land Officers to alienate small blocks will increase the rate of dealing with applications. 5,756 applications, comprising 35,048 relongs remained to be dealt with at the close of the year. Books were closed in Baling and Padang Trap Districts during the year.

20. The area of land in the State alienated for agriculture is shown in the following statement.

	No.	Area (Relongs)
Final Grants after Survey (Surat Putus) ..	33,594	468,049
Old Grants (Surat Putus lama) ..	4,889	45,336
Provisional Grants (Surat Kechil) ..	47,823	250,342
Permits ..	2,215	11,349
Banchi Sewa entries ..	17,440	32,707
Surat Akuan ..	13,486	75,155
Total ..	119,447	882,938

This shows a decrease of 581 Surat Putus Lama, 826 Permits and Banchi Sewa and 812 Surat Kechil, and an increase of 2,453 Surat Putus. The decrease in the rate of replacement of permits and Banchi Sewa is due to the fact that these holdings are in remote areas unreached yet by demarcation. 6,653 Surat Putus and 6,440 Surat Kechil remained awaiting issue at the end of the year.

21. Dealings registered in the Land Offices were as follows, as compared with 1344:—

		<i>No. in 1345</i>	<i>Consider- ation</i>	<i>No. in 1344</i>
Transfers for value	..	4,752	\$7,301,472	7,074
Transfers by gift	..	1,033	..	1,098
Charges	..	3,121	4,040,588	2,598
Miscellaneous documents	..	2,825	..	3,277
Total	..	<u>11,731</u>		<u>14,047</u>

The decrease in the number of transfers reflects the state of the rubber market, so possibly does the increase in the number of charges.

22. Returns of settlement show.

	<i>No.</i>	<i>No. of lots settled</i>	<i>Area (relongs)</i>
Lengkongan tracings	733	7,029	37,542
Settlement tracings	497	4,349	36,344
Total	<u>1,230</u>	<u>11,378</u>	<u>73,886</u>

This is the first time details of settlement have been compiled, and their accuracy cannot be vouched for. Delay in registration of titles is being caused by the necessity of the older records frequently having to be confirmed by re-inspection of the ground, due to faulty settlement by Boundary Officers in the past. Boundary Officers are now working to a better standard.

23. Mr. H. C. Eckhardt filled the appointment of Adviser, Lands, and Inche Mohamed Sheriff of Director of Lands throughout the year.

IV.—RUBBER RESTRICTION.

24. Mr. H. C. Eckhardt, Adviser Lands, was Chairman Rubber Restriction Committee, and Mr. A. E. Coope, Secretary throughout the year. The total standard production for the 5th Restriction year (1926—1927) was 461,889 pikuls as against 397,234 pikuls in the previous year, showing a decrease of 1,056 pikuls in small holdings, and an increase of 3,472 pikuls in medium holdings, and

of 62,239 pikuls in large holdings. The Secretary considers that the increase in the case of large holdings is only partly due to the alteration of the rules as to maxima and mainly due to the fact that there was a better opportunity of proving crops; the average percentage of release for the 5th Restriction year having been 96.25 per cent. Proof of crops for the full 12 months was generally insisted upon. There was a steady improvement in the quality of the work done in the various Land Offices.

V.—SURVEYS.

25. A total chainage of 233,572 (2,922 miles) was measured as compared with 299,401 (3,742 miles) in 1344. Some 5,040 lots covering 36,009 acres were surveyed as against 6,434 lots covering 35,649 acres in 1344, and 4,628 lots covering 12,499 acres were demarcated as against 6,625 lots covering 17,370 acres in 1344. The total field cost was \$139,610 compared with \$149,410 last year. The decrease in lots and chainage is due partly to a decrease in the Field Staff and partly to the increasingly scattered nature of the work, which also tends to increase the cost.

26. The Topographical Department plane-tabled 156.3 square miles of country in the Baling District. Later in the year a reconnaissance was made in Kubang Pasu District and hills cleared for Topographical Control points. 62 miles of levels were run for Topographical Height Controls, and connected with the Railway and Irrigation Department system and with Base North Trig Station. 196.3 miles were plane-tabled.

27. A total of 7,323 final and provisional Titles were prepared and forwarded to the Land Office as against 7,137 last year. Two final Mukim maps consisting of 5 sheets were prepared by the Department and lithographed by the Federated Malay States Survey Office. Seven preliminary Mukim maps were prepared and sunprinted departmentally. Copies of 18 approved Town and Village designs were prepared and distributed.

28. Approximately 107,623 lots covering 644,369 acres have now been located and mapped.

29. Requisitions for the survey of 88,807 lots have been received from the Lands and Mines Departments. Of these 43,062 have been completed, 9,409 are in action, and 36,336 are awaiting survey.

30. During the month of Ramthan all Surveyors were brought in to Headquarters for training, with beneficial effects, especially amongst the junior Surveyors. Classes were also held throughout the year for Computers with satisfactory results.

A scheme for an annual training camp for about five weeks each year for the whole Field Staff is under consideration.

31. A census of requisitions for surveys received was completed which enables an accurate statement to be given at any time of the number of requisitions dealt with. It was found that there was much duplication of figures in the old records, which explain the discrepancies between the figures in this, and last year's, report.

32. Revenue and expenditure for the year amounted to \$228,901.96 and \$407,823.89 respectively as against \$238,182.41 and \$346,452.69 last year. The increase in expenditure is due to large payments on Topographical Surveys, and the granting of Temporary Allowances to technical subordinates.

33. Mr. W. J. C. Stevens was Superintendent during the year.

VI.—AGRICULTURE.

34. The total area planted with padi in 1345 was 241,912 relongs compared with 233,897 relongs in 1344. The total yield was 56,274,013 gantangs, an increase of 23,494,187 gantangs over 1344. The increase was due to favourable weather conditions. The damage caused by the flood at the end of Jemadial-akhir (December) was inconsiderable.

35. Eight kinds of padi were cultivated at the seed trial ground at Telok Kechai with good results. 716 gantangs of seed were distributed to padi planters, and the resulting crops were the best in their respective districts.

36. Inspection of coconut plantations was carried out and advice given as to the removal of old and diseased trees and general improvement of the land. 3,526 new trees were planted and permission was given to fell 2,293 trees for various reasons.

37. Some damage was done to padi fields in Kuala Muda District by pigs and rats. Padi fields were also attacked by insects but not much damage was suffered.

38. "Pink disease" attacked about 100 small rubber estates near Sungei Patani and gave considerable trouble. "Black Stripe" broke out on a large estate near Padang Serai, and was successfully treated with Agrisol.

39. In the early part of the year nearly 400 estates in Kulim and Bandar Bahru Districts were attacked by Mouldy Rot. At the request of the Government the Chief Agricultural Field Officer, Agricultural Department, Federated Malay States and Straits Settlements, visited the affected area, and gave advice on the treatment of the disease. An increase of staff was recommended and made for dealing with the disease. Notices were served and the issue of coupons to estates affected temporarily stopped. Affected trees were treated in the dry season with Agrisol with good effect.

40. Some damage was done to coconut trees by beetles, squirrels, and pigs.

41. Guinea grass and Mauritius grass were planted with success. Yams were planted at Anak Bukit, and Sisal Hemp at Gurun and Kulim. At the end of the year cotton seed was obtained from India for experimental purposes.

42. Raja Mohamed relieved Che Mohamed Noor as Agricultural Officer on the 24th Rabialakhir (1st November, 1926).

VII.—MINES.

43. The total revenue collected from all sources connected with mining was \$81,393, a decrease of \$83,693 compared with 1344, and of \$14,157 compared with the estimate. The decrease was almost entirely attributable to a drop of nearly \$78,000 under the heading premia, there being practically no alienation of mining land.

44. Expenditure amounted to \$8,854 against \$8,887 in 1344 and an estimate of \$11,228.

45. The export of mineral ores in piculs was as follows:—

		1845	1844
Tin Ore	.. ..	5,690.32	5,675.48
Wolfram	.. ..	1,615.09	1,835.11
Amang	.. ..	20.71	150.79

The average price of tin was \$150.75 per picul as compared with \$136.91 in 1844.

46. The number of mines coolies employed at the end of 1845 was 1,129 compared with 1,315 at the end of 1844.

47. Of four applications for 53 relongs of land, one only for two relongs was approved, two were refused and one is still under consideration. One lease was surrendered and twelve were forfeited, the area reverting to Government being 797 relongs.

Twelve applications for Exclusive Prospecting Licences were received of which one only was granted.

48. Mr. H. C. Eckhardt was Superintendent of Mines throughout the year.

VIII.—FORESTS.

CONSTITUTION OF FORESTS.

49. *Exploration.* In the month of Moharram, the Conservator, Mr. Bell, ascended Gunong Raya on Langkawi Island with a small party, and observed several kinds of bamboo and rotan near the summit. In the month of Safar a party under Mr. Bell endeavoured to reach the summit of Gunong Bintang (6,000 feet) in South Kedah. The expedition was abandoned after Bukit Baubak (3,934 feet, had been climbed owing to inclement weather and disinclination of the coolies to proceed. Valuable information, however, was obtained of the forest flora.

50. *Forest Reserve Proposals.* Proposals were submitted to the Government for forest reserves at Bukit Perangin over an area of 12,000 acres, at Padang Trap for an area of approximately 70,000 acres, at Dayang Bunting, Langkawi, for 600 acres of mangrove, and at Sungei Bechaya for 4,500 acres to extend to Rimba Teloi Reserve.

51. *Demarcation.* 96 miles and 54 chains of new work was done at a cost of \$1,054, and 427 miles and 55 chains were maintained at a cost of \$2,985. At the close of the year 370,776 acres of forest reserve had been demarcated, and 261,864 acres (estimated) had been either approved or recommended for reservation.

MANAGEMENT OF FORESTS.

52. *Organisation.* No working plans have yet been prepared, and no working plan staff exists, but it is hoped to make a start in 1946.

53. *Communications and Buildings.* A path $5\frac{1}{4}$ miles long was made from the Trig Station on Gunong Jerai to Singkir.

Two new checking stations were built during the year, one at Tawar and one at Karangan.

54. *Protection of Forests.* A new Forest Enactment was passed, modelled on the Federated Malay States Forest Enactment. It provides for the compounding of certain Forest offences by the Conservator.

136 Forest offences were detected, and 105 convictions secured—the number of cases was higher than in the previous year.

55. *Silviculture.* The plantation at the foot of Gunong Jerai was upkept. The *Albizzia Mollucana* Seedlings are about 30 feet high. Merbau and Tembusu are doing well, but the teak is not thriving. A nursery for Brazil Nut seedlings was maintained at Sungkop Forest Reserve.

56. *Exploitation.* The total outturn of timber was 33,000, and of firewood 38,000, tons, and of charcoal 17,000 pikuls. From Forest Reserves 142 tons timber, 1,206 tons firewood, and 2,065 pikuls charcoal were removed.

There was an increase of \$16,000 in duty on export of timber.

57. *Financial Results.* Expenditure amounted to \$62,083.16 and revenue to \$139,145.69 as compared with \$53,921.48 and \$106,001.57 in 1944.

58. Mr. V. G. Bell was Conservator until 17th Shaaban (20th February, 1927) when he was relieved by Mr. W. M. E. Martin, who remained in charge till the end of the year. The Field Staff consisted of 5 Rangers, 4 Foresters, 49 Forest Guards and one Demarcator.

One Probationer is being trained in Kuala Lumpur.

59. The health and discipline of the staff is reported as satisfactory.

IX.—COURTS.

60. The Court of Appeal sat twice during the year, and disposed of ten criminal and nine civil appeals.

61. The First Division of the High Court heard 65 civil and 43 criminal appeals, and in its original jurisdiction dealt with 7 civil and 20 criminal cases. There were 6 murder cases in which convictions were recorded; in four of these the death sentence was carried out and in the other two the death sentence was commuted.

62. Appendix 'E' shows the number of cases heard in the Magistrate's and District Office Courts during the year.

63. Mr. W. H. Dinsmore officiated as First Division Judge till he went on leave on 9th Shawal 1345 (12th April 1927). Mr. Franklyn Robinson, Legal Adviser, relieved him. No one was seconded to act as Legal Adviser. The Assistant Adviser, Mr. H. Fraser, acted as Legal Adviser in addition to carrying on his own duties.

Tuan Syed Mansur Aljafree acted as Chief Malay Judge and Tunku Mansur as Second Malay Judge throughout the year.

64. 1,282 cases were decided in the Sharaiah Courts, and 141 were carried over to 1346.

The Sharaiah Courts, of which there are ten in the State, consist of a Kathi or Assistant Kathi, and hear and determine suits between Mohamedans concerning marriage, divorce and maintenance. There is an appeal from their decisions to the Second Division of the High Court: and appeals are heard by the Malay Judges with the aid of assessors of whom the Sheikh-ul-Islam is usually one.

X.—POLICE.

65. The total strength of the Force at the end of the year was 756. The authorised strength was 758. The European Staff consisted of one Commissioner, two Assistant Commissioners and four Chief Inspectors.

Fifty three recruits were taken on the strength as against 54 last year.

66. Discipline was on the whole good. 836 offences were proved and dealt with as against 896 in the previous year. Fifteen men were dismissed the Force.

The health of the Force was good.

67. The Detective Branch worked satisfactorily, Chief Inspector Hillary was in charge for the first half of the year, and on his departure on leave was succeeded by Chief Inspector Kenny.

68. Firearms registered numbered 5,080. 5,649 dogs were registered and 6,761 destroyed. 13,119 head of cattle were registered. Motor vehicles registered numbered 2,364.

69. Sixty six prosecutions were instituted by the Weights and Measures Inspector.

70. Twenty three reports of fire were made involving a loss of \$51,611. Of these, the burning of 17 shop houses at Merbok Pulas accounted for \$40,000. Nineteen murders occurred during the year with 15 discoveries compared with 14 last year. Gang robberies and robberies dropped respectively from 20 to 17 and from 22 to 16.

There were 123 cases of sudden, violent and unnatural deaths, which included 27 by drowning, 15 by motor vehicles, 4 killed by crocodiles and 5 by snake bite.

Fifty eight reports of cattle theft were admitted of which 28 were discovered.

Reports of theft showed a decrease of 143.

71. Revenue collected by Police Department from all sources amounted to \$151,369, an increase of \$33,310 over 1344. This total includes \$119,972.88 for Registration of Vehicles which appears under Sanitary Board revenue, and \$3,596 for Licences, Dogs, and Pigstyes, which appears under the heading "Licences".

72. Expenditure amounted to \$482,842 as compared with \$464,471 last year and an estimate, including supplementary provisions, of \$513,203.

73. Mr. W. E. Speers was Commissioner throughout the year.

XI.—PRISONS.

74. There are three prisons in Kedah, at Alor Star, Sungei Patani, and Kulim. Prisoners sentenced to one year or more are sent to Alor Star. There are also seven district lock-ups where short sentence prisoners may be confined for a period not exceeding two months.

75. The health of the prisoners was good. The total number of admissions to the Prison Hospital at Alor Star was 169, at Sungei Patani 45, and at Kulim 18. The daily average number of sick at Alor Star Prison Hospital was 7.31 against 7.68 for the previous year. The number of deaths at Alor Star Prison Hospital was 8, at Sungei Patani 1, and at Kulim 3.

76. Convicted prisoners in the State prisons were as follows:—

	<i>Alor Star</i>	<i>Sungei Patani</i>	<i>Kulim</i>
Prisoners on 1-1-45 ..	330	57	36
Admitted during 1345	380	263	201
Total ..	710	320	258
Discharged during 1345	399	210	207
Remaining at end of 1345	311	53	30

77. The various nationalities of new admissions are shown below:—

	<i>Alor Star</i>	<i>Sungei Patani</i>	<i>Kulim</i>
Malays	228	77	39
Chinese	89	95	102
Indians	44	73	93
Others	19	18	3
Total	380	263	237

78. The average daily prison population was:—

			<i>Alor Star</i>	<i>Sungei Patani</i>	<i>Kulim</i>
1345	..	..	330	50.42	29.55
1344	..	..	363	50	28

79. Prisoners' offences against prison discipline were as follows:—

			<i>Alor Star</i>	<i>Sungei Patani</i>	<i>Kulim</i>
1345	..	..	163	12	6
1344	..	..	199	13	7

The most frequent offence was being in possession of prohibited articles.

80. The discipline of the staff was good and their turn-out was smart. In Alor Star Prison 41 charges against warders for breach of Prison Rules were investigated, a decrease of 16 as compared with the previous year.

81. The revenue collected at Alor Star and Sungei Patani amounted to \$15,343. The practice of contribution by the Medical Department towards the purchase of padi ceased as from 1st Rejab 1345 (5th January 1927), after which date monthly payment was made by cheque for white rice and parboiled rice supplied to the Hospitals.

82. Expenditure at Alor Star Prison amounted to \$123,776 as against \$101,360 in 1344, which is accounted for by increased cost of padi, and alteration of system of accounting in respect of sales of rice to the Medical Department. Expenditure at Sungei Patani Prison was \$9,610 as compared with \$8,929, and at Kulim \$8,815 as compared with \$8,309.

83. One new single cell ward was commenced towards the end of the year at Alor Star Prison. The policy is to replace gradually all the association wards by single cell wards throughout the prison.

84. Mr. S. E. Dennys carried out the duties of Superintendent throughout the year.

XII.—MEDICAL AND HEALTH.

85. Government hospitals were maintained at Alor Star, Sungei Patani, Kulim, Kuala Ketil, Serdang, Bandar Bahru, Baling and Langkawi. 21,472 patients were treated as compared with 21,336 in the previous year. The percentage of deaths was 8.57 as compared with 7.04, and excluding deaths which occurred within 48 hours of admission was 6.19.

86. "Fever unspecified" and Malaria accounted for almost half the number of deaths. The mortality in Malaria was as usual greatest in Zulhijjah and Moharam (June and July) being then over 50 percent more than in the healthy months of Jemadialawal and Jemadialakhir (November and December).

87. 7,934 cases of Malaria were treated in the Hospitals with a death percentage of 6.81—the figures in the previous year were 8,209 cases with death percentage of 5.10.

88. Outdoor dispensaries were maintained at Alor Star (town), Changloon, Yen, Sik, Kuala Muda, Padang Serai, Mahang, and Ambulance dispensaries were maintained at Alor Star and Sungei Patani.

89. The total number of cases treated was 38,964 showing an increase of 200 cases over the previous year—this total includes 23,589 Malays.

90. There was a small outbreak of cholera in Central Kedah in the month of Zulhijjah (June). A total of 18 cases with 14 deaths occurred before the end of the year. The total number of cases was 19 with 16 deaths. In addition to these there were 4 other fatal cases in which there is strong presumptive evidence of cholera. The infection was brought into Kedah by South Indian immigrant labourers. All the cases were South Indians and there was no spread of infection among the Malay villages.

91. Amongst other preventive measures approximately 2,500 inoculations with cholera vaccine were given. The Health Department dealt with the outbreak very efficiently and received the cordial assistance of the Planting Community.

92. There were 3 cases of small-pox, one in North, one in Central and one in South Kedah. The usual preventive measures were taken in each case and there was no spread of infection.

93. 137 Kedah patients were under treatment at Tanjong Rambutan Mental Hospital at the beginning of the year. At the end of the year the number had risen to 149.

94. At the end of the year 65 lepers from Kedah were undergoing treatment at Pulau Jerajak and 10 Malay lepers at Pangkor Laut, and 3 lepers were in Kedah hospitals awaiting transfer.

95. *Vital Statistics.* The calculation of population has been made by reckoning the excess of births over deaths plus an estimate of the increase of population due to immigrant labourers. It is believed that the estimate of Indian is fairly accurate but there is some doubt about the Chinese. The birth rate this year, 34.49 per mille, is the highest ever recorded in Kedah—the death rate per mille is 26.92. The estimated population of Kedah at the end of the year is 398,222 including 270,138 Malays, 65,882 Chinese and 52,654 Indians.

96. The revenue collected by the Medical Department during the year was \$127,348 against \$56,487 in the previous year. The increase is due to the increase of the hospital charges from 40 cents a day to 85 cents a day.

97. The expenditure of the Medical Department was \$361,292 as compared with \$323,384 in 1344.

98. Dr. D. Bridges officiated as State Surgeon throughout the year. Dr. J. I. Baeza acted as Health Officer until 20th Shawal (23rd April, 1927) when he was relieved by Dr. R. B. MacGregor.

XIII.—VETERINARY.

99. Two outbreaks of foot and mouth disease occurred during the year. The first, in Bandar Bahru town, was stamped out in five weeks, and only nineteen cattle, all of which recovered, were affected. The second occurred in Mukim Mergong, and subsequently spread to 68 mukims in Kota Star, Kubang Pasu, Yen, Kuala Muda and Kulim Districts. At the end of the year it remained in 3 mukims in Kota Star and 2 in Kubang Pasu. 17,084 cattle and buffaloes were affected with 81 deaths. Action was taken in restricting the movement of diseased and contact cattle.

100. Three cases of rabies occurred in Central Kedah and one in South Kedah during the year. 6761 stray dogs were destroyed by the Police.

101. No other contagious disease occurred during the year.

102. Importation of cattle, sheep and goats was prohibited from Siam throughout the year, from Province Wellesley up to 27-3-45 (5-10-26) and again from 24-5-45 (30-11-26) till 13-9-45 (17-3-27), and from Perak up to 26-9-45 (30-3-27) owing to the presence of rinderpest.

103. Export of cattle, sheep and goats from Alor Star was prohibited as from 1-7-45 (5-1-27) owing to foot and mouth disease.

104. Importation of dogs from Siam, Java, Sumatra and Perlis was prohibited throughout the year, and from Province Wellesley and Perak from 13-7-45 (17-1-27) and 12-11-45 (14-5-27) respectively.

105. The export and import figures for cattle and buffaloes were 2,475 and 177 respectively compared with 4,162 and 845 last year.

106. Revenue and expenditure amounted to \$2,130.00 and \$30,123.00 respectively, compared with \$1,983.00 and \$29,301.00 last year.

107. The Padang Besar Quarantine Station, which is situated on the Perlis—Siam frontier, and is the joint property of Kedah, Perlis, the Federated Malay States, and the Straits Settlements, is administered by this Department.

1,721 Cattle and buffaloes, 54,337 pigs, 4 horses, 2 sheep and a dog passed through the Station during the year, yielding a revenue of \$6,389.00.

108. Mr. J. J. Fleury, M.R.C.V.S., was State Veterinary Surgeon during the year.

XIV.—EDUCATION.

109. There were two English Schools, at Alor Star and Sungei Patani. The numbers on the rolls at the end of the year were 479 and 161 as compared with 440 and 153 at the end of the previous year.

In the two schools the various nationalities were represented as follows:—

			<i>Alor Star</i>	<i>Sungei Patani</i>
Malays	..	..	263	53
Chinese	..	..	159	66
Indians	..	..	49	36
Other races	..	..	8	6

The percentage of attendance at Alor Star was 95.3 and at Sungei Patani 92.

110. As the result of the recommendations of a Committee formed to report on English education, arrangements were made to increase the number of Malay boys receiving English education.

111. A scheme of foundation scholarships tenable by deserving boys within the Government English School was approved by Government to come into force from the beginning of 1346. It is hoped that these scholarships will enable boys, who have a good chance of passing Cambridge Local Examinations but are at present compelled to leave school early owing to financial difficulties, to stay on at school.

Two scholarships were provided by monthly subscriptions from certain members of the Stia Kesuka'an Club.

112. The Boy Scouts had a busy and successful year. Their turn-out at the King's Birthday and Sultan's Birthday was extremely smart. Camps were held at various places, and at the Kedah Exhibition they did stalwart service. The silver cross for bravery in saving life was won by Scout Abidin bin Mahmud.

113. At Alor Star School Prefects were appointed, and a School Magazine started. Also a miniature rifle range was constructed. 240 boys took part in the football league.

114. Great credit is due to Mr. E. A. G. Stuart, Superintendent of Education, who held the post of Head Master for 12 years, and to Mr. E. C. Hicks, who took Mr. Stuart's place as Head Master early in the year, for the esprit de corps which is being created in the Alor Star School.

The Sungei Patani School is at a disadvantage owing to poor and inadequate housing, but it is hoped that this will be remedied shortly.

115. In the Cambridge Local Examination, the Alor Star and Sungei Patani Schools gained 10 and 3 Junior Certificates and 5 and 1 School Certificates—one Chinese boy won honours in the School Certificate Examination.

116. Two Chinese boys have been sent at Government expense to study medicine at the King Edward VII Medical School, Singapore, and two Malay boys are now studying Latin with a view to higher education in England.

VERNACULAR EDUCATION.

117. Vernacular Schools numbered 72, including 3 Girls Schools.

118. Annual examinations were held at 68 schools of which 9 were marked Excellent, 18 Very Good, 23 Good, 16 Fair and 2 Bad.

119. The following table shows the number of boys examined in each standard in the last 4 years:—

		<i>S t a n d a r d s</i>					
<i>Schools</i>		<i>I</i>	<i>II</i>	<i>III</i>	<i>IV</i>	<i>Total</i>	
1342	.. 65	1432	1064	744	871	4111	
1343	.. 64	1465	1165	836	931	4397	
1344	.. 68	1562	1243	961	1030	4796	
1345	.. 68	1418	1354	991	1154	4917	

The average enrolment of all Vernacular Schools was 7,715 and attendance 6,668, an increase of 259 and 275 respectively. The percentage of attendance was 86.5.

120. Miss M. C. Waddell was in charge of the Malay Girls School at Kampong Bahru throughout the year. Needlework and musical drill are particularly well taught in this School.

121. Mr. E. A. G. Stuart, Superintendent of Education, was in charge of the Department throughout the year.

XV.—LABOUR.

122. Owing to returns being made according to the English Calendar, this Report deals with the period 20th Zulhijjah 1344 (1st July 1926) to 29th Zulhijjah 1345 (30th June 1927).

POPULATION.

123. The total number of labourers employed by estates, mines, and Government Departments on 29th Zulhijjah 1345 (30th June, 1927) was 65,053 as against 51,806 on 19th Zulhijjah 1344 (30th June, 1926) an

increase of 25 per cent. South Indians and Chinese increased by 12,233 and 1,047, or by 39 per cent and 10 per cent, while Malays and Javanese decreased by 648 or 5 per cent. There was a steady inflow of labour throughout the year.

HEALTH.

124. The death rate among labourers was 14.27 per mille as compared with 14.25 per mille last year. Amongst Indian labourers it was 20.41 per mille compared with 20.81 per mille last year. At the beginning of the year health was not good, but it improved towards the middle, to relapse again at the end as a result of an outbreak of cholera.

125. During the year a Hospitals' Committee was formed to advise Government on all matters connected with health on estates, and the Committee has submitted a draft Health Board Enactment for the consideration of Government.

WAGES.

126. Wages remained practically at the same rates as last year, i.e. 45 cents to 50 cents for men and 35 to 40 cents for women, with a tendency at the end of the year to pay the higher rate.

EMPLOYMENT AND RECRUITING.

127. In 1345 the number of State aided Indian Immigrants who arrived in Kedah was 18,376 adults and 3,769 minors, as compared with 12,898 adults and 2,540 minors in 1344. Of these, 17,416 were recruited by licensed Kanganies and 4,729 were voluntary emigrants from India.

128. Local engagements of South Indians, Chinese Malays and others amounted to 32,222, 8,649, 6,201 and 1,643 respectively as compared with 26,365, 9,998, 9,808 and 398 in 1344. The ratio of local engagements was again lower, indicating increased permanent settlement of labour.

GENERAL.

129. There was a slight decrease in the cost of living during the year.

130. 179 complaints were registered as against 217 last year, all except nine of which were settled departmentally. In the other nine, prosecutions were instituted. The decrease in the number of complaints taken in conjunction with the increase in the labour population indicates improved conditions of labour. There were no serious disturbances.

131. Seventy seven visits of inspection were made by the Protector of Labour and 510 by the Labour Inspector.

132. There were 33 Tamil Vernacular Estate Schools in Kedah, of which only one was admitted to the privilege of the Tamil Estate School Code, the School on Bukit Kosa Estate having been closed.

133. On the 29th Rabialawal (7th October 1926) the new Labour Code, Enactment No. 2 of 1345 was passed, and the Kedah Labour law was thereby brought into line with the other Malay States.

134. Capt. N. Jones, M.C., was Protector of Labour during the whole year.

XVI.—CHINESE PROTECTORATE.

135. Eight societies were registered and one was exempted from registration during the year. The number of registered societies at the end of the year was 47, and the number of exempted societies was 12.

136. Enquiries undertaken by the Protectorate during the year totalled 186. These may be roughly classified as follows:—

(a) Enquiries under the Protection of Women and Girls Enactment	..	..	22
(b) Complaints regarding domestic matters, maintenance, the custody of children, etc.	..	..	64
(c) Complaints regarding labourers' wages			57
(d) Miscellaneous	..	..	43
Total	..	..	<hr/>186 <hr/>

137. The traffic in women and girls through Siam appears to have ceased. No cases of this traffic were discovered during the year. Brothels were inspected by the Protectorate, and six girls who were under age were removed to the Home at Sungei Patani and were subsequently married. During the year 24 women and girls, and two male children who had been brought into the State for sale were admitted to the Home. The two latter were given in adoption and are under the surveillance of the Protectorate.

138. It was decided that the scheme for a new Home should be abandoned for the time being, and an arrangement was made with the Protector of Chinese, Penang, to maintain in the Po Leong Kuk Home, Penang, at the expense of the Kedah Government any young girls for whom suitable provision could not be made and for whom a long period of detention was necessary, the Kedah Home being used merely as a temporary refuge. Two girls were sent to Penang under this arrangement. There were two girls in the Home at the end of the year.

139. On 28th Shaaban 1345 (3rd March 1927) the Protector of Chinese was appointed a Deputy Controller of Labour. A number of estates were visited and disputes between labourers and contractors regarding work done and wages due were settled.

140. Mr. D. Richards continued as Protector of Chinese until 29th Rabialawal 1345 (7th October 1926) when he was transferred. His place was taken by Captain N. Grice who acted from 29th Rabialawal 1345 (7th October 1926) to 23rd Jemadialakhir 1345 (29th December 1926). Mr. G. R. Sykes acted from 24th Jemadialakhir 1345 (30th December 1926) to the end of the year.

141. Captain N. Grice and Mr. G. R. Sykes were, like their predecessors, given the powers of an Assistant Superintendent, Monopolies and Customs, and were asked to assist that Department generally.

XVII.—SANITARY BOARDS.

142. The principal Sanitary Boards of the State are in the districts of Kota Star, Kubang Pasu, Kuala Muda and Kulim. The chief townships are respectively Alor Star, Jitra, Sungei Patani and Kulim, but smaller townships in the vicinity of these are placed as far as possible under the main Boards, and there are also other controlled building areas.

143. The revenue of the Kota Star Board was \$58,785 against \$50,480 in 1344 and an estimate of \$51,577. These figures are exclusive of the revenue from the licensing of motor cars and drivers under the head "Registration of Vehicles", which is collected by the Police and amounted to \$31,079.

144. During the year the State Council relaxed the rule requiring 20 foot frontages so far as old lots in Alor Star town are concerned. As a result, plans for the erection of four shop houses were approved in the old town. Plans were also passed for four shop houses in Jalan Langgar.

145. Two new lay out schemes in the old town were approved by the State Council, and provision was made to construct roads on the North side of Jalan Langgar to give access to ten shop lots which were auctioned in 1344.

146. Expenditure, which included the purchase of two Morris Lorries for Conservancy work, amounted to \$65,710 as against \$57,224 in 1344 and an estimate of \$68,678.

147. Ten shop houses were completed at Kota Sarang Semut, two each at Tokai and Kepala Batas and several at Kuala Nerang.

148. Approval for the erection of a subsidiary power station was given to Messrs. Huttenbach Lazarus & Sons, which, when completed, will improve the lighting of Alor Star.

149. The revenue of the Kuala Muda Board was \$56,708 as against \$50,196 in 1344, and the expenditure \$34,628 as against \$33,962.

150. Water was laid on to 81 houses in Sungai Patani. An incinerator was built at Gurun. Nine shop houses were completed at Gurun and one at Tikam Batu, and several plans were approved during the year for houses at Sungai Patani. Several petrol pumps were installed and plans for others approved.

151. Kulim Sanitary Board, which supervises the towns of Lunas, Padang Serai and Junjong showed a total revenue of \$37,599 (excluding fees for licensing of motor vehicles) as compared with \$29,325 in the previous year.

152. Expenditure amounted to \$23,363 as compared with \$15,121 in the previous year. It was found necessary to increase the scavenging gang, and to take over conservancy work from the Contractor who proved unsatisfactory and carry it on departmentally. From the 1st Zulkaedah (3rd May 1927) the town of Kulim was lighted with electric light; 100 street lamps being provided. The lighting is carried out by the firm of Messrs. Huttenbach Lazarus & Sons as at Alor Star and Sungei Patani.

153. The Kubang Pasu Sanitary Board is in charge of Jitra, Changloon and Kodiang villages—at Jitra 12 new shop houses were erected.

154. Baling Sanitary Board is in charge of Baling, Kuala Ketil and Merbau Pulas villages. At Merbau Pulas there was a serious fire in the month of Rejab (January 1927) which destroyed 18 out of the 38 shop houses—they were wooden buildings with attap roofs. A town plan has been approved, and new shop houses of a more permanent type are now being built.

155. There are also Sanitary Boards for Bandar Bahru, Yen and Langkawi districts.

XVIII.—MONOPOLIES AND CUSTOMS.

156. The total revenue collected under Customs, exclusive of Opium Monopoly, amounted to \$3,597,764 compared with \$4,033,676 in the previous year. The only important decrease was in export duty on Rubber, \$799,758. This decrease was due to the fact that there was no export of rubber on payment of excess duty. There was an increase of \$90,840 in import duty on Tobacco, and an increase of \$34,470 in import duty on Liquors. The export duty on Padi and Rice amounted to \$156,543 as against \$75,851 in 1344 and \$130,854 in 1343.

157. The export duty on fish amounted to \$85,826 as against \$38,569 in 1344 and \$54,161 in 1343.

158. Import duty on Liquors and Tobacco were collected in Penang by the Assistant Superintendent. Government Monopolies, Straits Settlements.

159. 135 cases in respect of offences against the Customs and Excise Enactments were taken to Court, of which 25 were dismissed, and fines were imposed amounting to \$17,275. There were 14 cases of rubber smuggling involving a total quantity of 77 pikuls.

160. The Protector of Chinese was Assistant Superintendent Monopolies and Customs, and rendered valuable assistance. Tunku Kassim was in charge of the Monopolies and Customs Department throughout the year.

OPIUM MONOPOLY.

161. The total gross revenue collected was \$2,633,168 of which \$2,618,888 was the amount realised by sale of chandu (prepared opium). \$604,361 was paid to the Straits Settlements Government for purchase of chandu. The total amount of chandu sold was 242,877 tahils = (1 tahlil 1 and 1/3 oz. avoirdupois).

162. The sale of chandu was carried on at the Customs Offices, and at places where there are no Customs Offices shops were rented for this purpose.

163. The three licensed smoking saloons at Alor Star, Sungei Patani and Kulim remained open till the end of the year, and shops were rented and staffs engaged for 3 Government Smoking Saloons to be opened at the beginning of 1346.

XIX.—POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

164. The estimated number of postal articles, excluding parcels and registered letters, posted and delivered during the year was 3,187,974, an increase of 647,332 as compared with 1344. 59,140 registered articles were despatched and 62,651 delivered, showing an increase of 6,447 and 9,731 respectively over the previous year. The number of parcels posted and delivered numbered 5,889 and 16,833 respectively as against 5,088 and 14,744 in 1344.

165. The number of insured articles (letters and parcels) posted was 511 and their value \$57,253.43; the number delivered was 774 valued at \$80,183.82. The previous year's figures were 412 and 660 valued at \$40,606.95 and \$59,588.39 respectively.

166. Twelve articles bearing trade charges for the amount of \$129.25 were posted as against 5 articles for \$66.90 in 1344. Those received for delivery were 1,701 as against 1,912 in 1344 with charges amounting to \$16,589.24 as against \$18,242.86. The number of returned letters dealt with was 16,321 as against 12,490 in 1344.

167. Money Order and Postal Order transactions again increased, the cost involved being \$720,549.61 compared with \$535,789.06 last year.

168. The Savings Bank business again increased, 1,238 deposits being made totalling \$27,695.89 and 586 withdrawals totalling \$50,461.66.

169. The number of telegrams received, forwarded and transmitted was 52,715, 43,524 and 52,559 respectively as against 55,991, 44,551 and 58,903 in 1344.

170. There was a nett increase of 38 in the number of telephone subscribers, the total at the end of the year being 555.

171. A metallic telephone circuit from Alor Star to Kedah Peak and connected to Gurun Police Station was completed on 4-6-45 (10-12-26), and a new circuit from Kota Sarang Semut to Junun Police Station on 22-11-45 (24-5-27).

172. Revenue for the year amounted to \$151,606.54 (excluding \$6,222.71 Revenue debit and \$6,961.40 Police Revenue) as against \$103,520.59 last year.

173. Expenditure amounted to \$163,586.67 as compared with \$150,405.48 in 1344.

174. Mr. S. Asirvadam was in charge throughout the year.

XX.—PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

175. The total estimated expenditure including revotes and special warrants amounted to \$3,303,724.

The actual expenditure was \$2,228,613, leaving an unexpended balance of \$1,075,111.

The total expenditure constituted a record, exceeding the previous highest figure by \$285,000.

RECURRENT EXPENDITURE.

176. 361.95 miles of metalled road were upkept at an average cost of \$1,739.90 per mile, which was \$290.42 higher than in the previous year. 57.20 miles of road were treated with asphalt at a total cost of \$111,213.90, which averages out at 25.2 cents a square yard. 116.25 miles of unmetalled roads were upkept at an average cost of \$216.77 per mile.

177. \$34,628 was spent on "Maintenance of Canals and Rivers" in North Kedah for the benefit of the padi-growing areas; much of the work being done by Malays employed departmentally. 229 miles of canals were maintained. In addition "Clearing of Rivers" cost \$4,315.

178. The book value of Government buildings, after allowing for additions and deductions, now stands at \$4,332,900, a nett increase during the year of \$178,960. A sum of \$118,561 was spent on repairs and painting, being 2.84. per cent of the value of the buildings maintained.

179. Maintenance of water works throughout the State cost \$29,015.

SPECIAL SERVICES.

180. Considerable progress was made with the work of widening of the main road from Guar Chempedak to Kota Sarang Semut, but completion was delayed by the shortage of railway transport owing to the floods in Keiantan.

181. The remaining four miles of the Lubok—Bigia road were metalled, and the whole length of nine miles opened to traffic.

182. The extension of the Weng—Sok road was not proceeded with, Government having decided to complete the metalling and bridging of the existing formation before continuing the earthwork.

183. Fair progress was made with the deviation of Kelang Lama—Kelang Bahru Road, wet weather hindering the work to some extent.

184. The metalling of the Kob Road was nearly completed and the road was opened to traffic at the end of the year.

185. The road extension to Mahang was completed.

186. Reinforced concrete bridges were completed at Langgar (108 feet in length), 40th mile Baling road (96 feet), and 44th mile Baling Road (48 feet), besides many others of smaller span. An 88 foot bridge at Bumbong Lima was nearing completion at the end of the year.

187. The Irrigation Branch completed surveys so far as the field work is concerned, in connection with the Pendang and Kepala Batas Schemes. The former embraces the area extending from the Tanah Merah Canal across the Sungei Pendang to the Sungei Padang Kerbau. The latter covers the padi-growing area between Kepala Batas and Alor Star and between Langgar and Sungei Padang Kerbau.

188. The total expenditure on construction work was \$233,361, and progress was made upon the following schemes: Sungei Sedeka, Sungei Limau, Sungei Dulang Kechil Alor Changileh, Lanah Buloh, and new canal through glam. The Langkawi scheme was completed.

BUILDINGS.

189. No building of great importance was finished during the year, but satisfactory progress was made with the Post Office, Alor Star. The total expenditure under this heading, including Minor Works Foreseen, revotes and special warrants, was \$704,654.

WATER SUPPLIES.

190. A contract was let for the Baling Service Reservoir and an order was placed for pipes.

191. Investigations were made with a view to obtaining an additional source of supply for Alor Star, and the extension of the supply for Kuala Sala to Kota Sarang Semut was commenced.

134 private supplies were installed.

STAFF.

192. Major W. R. Sanguinetti was State Engineer until his retirement on pension on 31st October, 1926. He was succeeded by Mr. G. Sturrock who was transferred to the Straits Settlements on 3rd May, 1927 (1st Zulkaidah, 1345) after which date Mr. W. J. Smith acted in the appointment.

193. A new appointment of European Draftsman was approved, and Mr. C. H. Short filled this appointment from 8th April 1927 (5th Shawal 1345).

XXI.—PRINTING DEPARTMENT.

194. Steady progress was made by this Department during the year. Towards the end of the year the scheme of salaries of the technical staff was revised and an incremental scale was introduced. It is hoped that as a result of the new scheme the Malay apprentices who develop satisfactorily will obtain a career in this Department. The Government Gazette was issued monthly in Malay and English, and all Government forms were printed. It is not, however, at present possible to carry on the printing required by the Government without some help from private firms.

XXII.—CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES DEPARTMENT.

195. The Co-Operative Societies Department Enactment and Rules were passed by the State Council, and were published in the Gazette of 10th Jemadialawal 1345 (16th November, 1926).

196. During the year 16 Rural Credit Societies operated in North Kedah and 2 in South Kedah, while there were 3 Thrift and Loan Societies. Five of these Societies were registered.

197. Mr. Cavendish, Officer-in-charge, Co-Operative Societies, Federated Malay States and Straits Settlements, visited Kedah for a few days in Shawal (April 1927) and attended meetings of most of the Societies. He was favourably impressed with the work that had been done and laid great stress on the importance of laying the foundations securely before commencing to build up the structure of Co-Operative Societies.

198. Che Abdulrahman bin Haji Samaudin was in charge of the Department throughout the year.

XXIII.—TRADE.

199. The gross value of exports for the year was \$43,090,007 and of imports \$10,203,303. The corresponding figures for the previous year were \$50,563,669 and \$10,436,931. The following is a summary of the Import and Export returns for 1344 and 1345:—

		<i>Import</i>	<i>Export</i>
A.—Live Animals, food, drinks, tobacco ..	1345	5,940,328	6,997,258
	1344	5,550,386	3,528,636
B.—Raw Materials ..	1345	451,073	35,914,404
	1344	576,423	46,674,646
C.—Wholly or mainly manufactured articles	1345	3,811,925	387,345
	1344	4,310,122	356,387

The value of tobacco and cigarettes imported was \$1,442,316, of cotton goods \$1,105,332, of sugar \$747,014, and of petroleum \$884,551; all these figures show an increase over the previous year's, except in respect of petroleum.

The value of the principal exports for 1344 and 1345 is as follows:—

	<i>1345</i>	<i>1344</i>
Rubber	34,487,489	45,390,867
Padi and Rice ..	2,568,639	940,225
Fish	601,911	325,258
Tapioca	1,754,700	839,018
Tin Ore	477,999	682,342

XXIV.—MARINE.

200. The revenue collected under all headings amounted to \$37,540, and the expenditure, including maintenance of Lighthouses and Motor Launches "Langkawi" and "Lady Nell" amounted to \$34,637.

201. Inche Ismail bin Haji Jaafar, Harbour Master, was in charge of the Department and also supervised the preparation of trade statistics and issue of licences to Rubber Dealers in Kota Star District.

202. The fishing industry had a prosperous year: the chief centres of this industry are at Kuala Kedah and Kuala Merbok.

XXV.—GENERAL.

203. The year was marked by general prosperity, and the heavy December rains did very little damage to roads or buildings. A railway bridge on the Colony side of Pinang Tunggal—the boundary station—collapsed and there was an interruption in railway communication between Prai and Sungei Patani for a few weeks.

204. Mr. A. S. Haynes acted as British Adviser from the beginning of the year until September (Rab' alawal 1345) when he was relieved by Mr. T. W. Clayton, who was subsequently confirmed in the appointment.

205. Padi planting is the principal industry in Kedah, and the areas under padi are steadily increasing with the development of drainage and irrigation schemes. Great care is taken in dealing with all applications for mining, and the policy of the Government is to refuse applications for mining if there appears to be any risk involved to agricultural interests.

206. A very successful Agri-Horticultural Exhibition was held at Anak Bukit Gardens, Alor Star, in Rab' alawal, (September 1926). Native industries were well represented, and perhaps one of the most interesting features of the Exhibition was a group of Semangs, men, women and children, who were in the charge of Mr. V. G. Bell, Acting Conservator of Forests, and who danced and performed with their blowpipes in a most natural manner.

207. The Exhibition was opened by His Highness the Sultan of Kedah, a Guard of Honour being formed from the local Scouts.

His Highness the Sultan of Perak and His Highness the Yam Tuan of Negri Sembilan with their suites were present at the Exhibition.

T. W. CLAYTON,
British Adviser, Kedah.

Alor Star, 31st October, 1927.

APPENDIX A.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 29th Zulhijjah 1345 (30-6-27).

LIABILITIES.	\$	ASSETS.	\$
Deposits ... ..	...	Cash	753,130
Opium Revenue Replacement Fund ...	...	Advances	21,546
Investments Depreciation Reserve ...	...	Cash-in-transit ...	92,354
Excess of Assets ... ..	...	Imprests	22,855
		Investments * ...	10,106,283
		Loans	56,788
		Suspense Account ...	128,386
	11,181,342		11,181,342

APPENDIX B.

Statement of Revenue for each year from A.H. 1341 to 1345 (A.D. 1923—1927).

Heads of Revenue.	A. H. 1341 (A. D. 1923.)	A. H. 1342 (A. D. 1924.)	A. H. 1343 (A. D. 1925.)	A. H. 1344 (A. D. 1926.)	A. H. 1345 (A. D. 1927.)
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1. Marine ...	19,484	23,175	23,696	28,157	31,679
2. Customs ...	1,381,801	1,518,741	1,716,006	3,787,061	3,279,108
3. Opium Monopoly ...	1,708,883	1,892,740	1,993,843	2,441,088	2,632,863
4. Farms and Licences ...	210,687	235,905	280,139	356,400	432,451
5. Court Fees etc. ...	177,659	126,224	160,330	168,419	158,255
6. Police ...	17,352	17,369	29,943	30,543	27,800
7. Education ...	9,382	9,982	11,366	12,242	12,042
8. Veterinary ...	8,191	9,985	1,556	3,860	4,008
9. Reimbursements ...	39,846	45,406	56,397	76,388	155,342
10. Posts and Telegraphs ...	76,248	80,399	74,023	103,520	151,607
11. Lands ...	751,655	763,316	832,014	972,802	857,322
12. Forests ...	63,084	74,274	65,738	102,586	135,614
13. Mines ...	8,033	8,923	7,160	9,977	6,796
14. Interests ...	266,317	249,837	248,265	339,672	291,076
15. Sanitary Boards ...	161,690	177,821	197,118	249,930	282,915
16. Miscellaneous ...	71,954	41,680	34,932	61,063	82,829
17. Land Sales ...	108,872	223,788	237,622	415,779	446,722
Total	5,081,138	5,499,564	5,970,148	9,179,487	8,988,429

Heads of Service.	A. H. 1341 (A. D. 1923.)					A. H. 1342 (A. D. 1924.)					A. H. 1343 (A. D. 1925.)					A. H. 1344 (A. D. 1926.)					A. H. 1345 (A. D. 1927.)				
	\$					\$					\$					\$					\$				
1. Charges on account of the Public Debt.	75,352	...	...	...	...	59,682	29,371	...	...	...	29,371	...	...	...	...	29,371	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2. Ruling House Allowances, Pensions, etc.	234,021	...	...	...	...	245,432	265,698	...	...	...	265,698	...	...	...	...	265,698	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3. H. H. The Sultan's Office	141,220	...	...	...	...	141,087	139,176	...	...	...	139,176	...	...	...	...	139,176	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4. State Council	144,907	...	...	...	...	137,920	135,800	...	...	...	135,800	...	...	...	...	135,800	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5. District Offices	170,398	...	...	...	...	174,084	179,848	...	...	...	179,848	...	...	...	...	182,404	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6. Lands	238,484	...	...	...	...	248,770	261,368	...	...	...	261,368	...	...	...	...	263,869	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7. Mines	10,453	...	...	...	...	10,234	9,891	...	...	...	9,891	...	...	...	...	9,610	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8. Forests	54,820	...	...	...	...	57,341	57,292	...	...	...	57,292	...	...	...	...	53,922	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9. Agricultural	6,688	...	...	...	...	11,981	12,951	...	...	...	12,951	...	...	...	...	15,746	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10. Chinese Protectorate	7,417	...	...	...	...	8,140	16,848	...	...	...	16,848	...	...	...	...	15,845	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11. Health	19,591	...	...	...	...	9,111	19,531	...	...	...	19,531	...	...	...	...	24,988	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12. Labour	14,345	...	...	...	...	15,509	14,046	...	...	...	14,046	...	...	...	...	16,695	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13. Treasury	37,088	...	...	...	...	36,656	41,665	...	...	...	41,665	...	...	...	...	41,036	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
14. Survey	358,980	...	...	...	...	344,993	338,682	...	...	...	338,682	...	...	...	...	344,358	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15. Printing ....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
16. Audit	47,527	...	...	...	...	52,291	52,665	...	...	...	52,665	...	...	...	...	61,859	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
17. Marine	31,706	...	...	...	...	32,798	34,655	...	...	...	34,655	...	...	...	...	50,754	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
18. Courts	132,985	...	...	...	...	142,931	146,729	...	...	...	146,729	...	...	...	...	154,155	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
19. Police	459,447	...	...	...	...	453,378	473,937	...	...	...	473,937	...	...	...	...	464,471	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20. Prisons	94,652	...	...	...	...	104,900	105,545	...	...	...	105,545	...	...	...	...	101,360	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
21. Medical	265,185	...	...	...	...	280,471	293,147	...	...	...	293,147	...	...	...	...	323,384	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22. Veterinary	28,022	...	...	...	...	29,757	27,336	...	...	...	27,336	...	...	...	...	29,301	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23. Education	228,258	...	...	...	...	248,579	253,592	...	...	...	253,592	...	...	...	...	282,524	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
24. Mosque	8,400	...	...	...	...	8,816	9,747	...	...	...	9,747	...	...	...	...	8,771	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25. Miscellaneous	198,814	...	...	...	...	335,906	346,703	...	...	...	346,703	...	...	...	...	275,003	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
26. Posts and Telegraphs	137,584	...	...	...	...	140,055	131,014	...	...	...	131,014	...	...	...	...	150,406	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27. Monopolies and Customs	146,204	...	...	...	...	158,173	165,551	...	...	...	165,551	...	...	...	...	181,532	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
28. Sanitary Boards	115,923	...	...	...	...	119,434	123,601	...	...	...	123,601	...	...	...	...	122,458	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
29. Public Works Department	235,347	...	...	...	...	216,021	256,405	...	...	...	256,405	...	...	...	...	238,800	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
do. Recurrent	659,193	...	...	...	...	700,010	699,356	...	...	...	699,356	...	...	...	...	745,202	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
do. Extraordinary	1,008,752	...	...	...	...	380,361	1,004,718	...	...	...	1,004,718	...	...	...	...	767,404	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	5,311,741	...	...	...	...	4,904,821	5,671,697	...	...	...	5,671,697	...	...	...	...	5,481,218	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

APPENDIX D.

Land Revenue Returns for the year 1845.

DISTRICTS.	PREMIA ON ISSUE OF TITLES.		SURVEY FEES.		BOUNDARY MARKS.		LAND-TAX AND LAND-RENT.	
	Estimate.	Collected.	Estimate.	Collected.	Estimate.	Collected.	Estimate.	Collected.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Kota Star	15,000	23,057 35	12,000	12,176 80	200	392 20	125,000	127,202 55
Kubang Pasu	10,000	14,488 12	4,000	7,228 38	50	381 20	62,000	60,403 50
Yen	4,000	4,318 85	1,200	3,991 50	50	130 00	20,500	20,592 85
Langkawi	625	2,070 30	100	178 00	10	...	12,000	11,962 45
Padang Trap	4,000	5,601 20	150	125 50	10	6 00	6,000	5,697 00
Kuala Muda	150,000	87,969 80	5,000	10,272 74	1,000	1,284 68	158,000	158,668 50
Kulim	150,000	244,230 45	4,000	5,435 56	500	1,470 50	175,000	179,438 59
Bandar Bahru	15,000	38,374 60	1,000	9,226 73	200	1,912 20	72,000	70,092 53
Baling	50,000	22,247 10	3,000	3,881 20	200	150 70	16,000	16,216 30
Sik	3,000	6,145 90	500	347 50	10	22 00	5,500	5,504 35
TOTAL	401,625	448,503 47	30,950	52,863 91	2,230	5,749 48	652,000	655,778 62

APPENDIX D.—(contd.)

Land Revenue Returns for the year 1345.—(contd.)

DISTRICTS.	COMMISSION IN LIEU OF STAMP DUTY.		REGISTRATION FEES.		MISCELLANEOUS.		GRAND TOTAL.		SIGNS (+) OR (—)	
	Estimate.	Collected.	Estimate.	Collected.	Estimate.	Collected.	Estimate.	Collected.	Estimate.	C.
	\$	\$ C.	\$	\$ C.	\$	\$ C.	\$	\$ C.	\$	C.
Kota Star	20,000	17,605 43	7,000	6,527 00	12,000	12,319 40	191,200	199,280 73	+	8,080 73
Kubang Pasu	10,000	6,283 27	4,000	4,793 50	7,000	8,243 70	97,050	101,821 67	+	4,771 67
Yen	2,000	1,323 59	1,000	1,037 75	2,100	1,989 10	30,850	33,383 64	+	2,533 64
Langkawi	750	477 06	375	668 25	1,100	674 55	14,960	16,030 61	+	1,070 61
Padang Trap	500	393 98	500	277 00	1,500	884 43	12,660	12,985 11	+	325 11
Kuala Muda	25,000	17,440 82	4,000	3,911 50	10,000	7,758 70	353,000	287,306 74	—	65,693 26
Kulim	30,000	19,000 03	3,000	3,517 00	5,000	4,886 51	367,500	457,978 64	+	90,478 64
Bandar Bahru	10,000	12,752 82	2,500	2,590 38	3,000	4,465 96	103,700	139,415 22	+	35,715 22
Baling	1,500	3,400 36	1,500	1,608 95	1,500	2,188 00	73,700	49,692 61	—	24,007 39
Sik	250	155 35	1,000	1,166 50	600	321 80	10,860	13,663 40	+	2,803 40
TOTAL	100,000	78,832 71	24,875	26,097 83	43,800	43,732 15	1,255,480	1,311,558 37	+	56,078 37

APPENDIX E.

Return of Cases tried in the Courts during the year 1345.

	CRIMINAL.					CIVIL.			
	No. of cases from 1344.	No. of cases instituted	No. of cases disposed of.	No. of cases pending at end of 1345.		No. of cases from 1344.	No. of cases instituted.	No. of cases disposed of.	No. of cases pending at end of 1345.
MAGISTRATE'S COURT.									
Alor Star	126	1,479	1,538	67		117	802	805	114
Kota Sarang Semut	2	22	23	1		3	4	2	5
Langgar	32	28	49	11		-	6	2	4
Pendang	7	6	9	4		3	-	3	-
DISTRICT COURT.									
Kubang Pasu	6	987	969	24		25	310	286	49
Padang Trap	9	203	198	14		6	31	35	2
Langkawi	4	103	106	1		4	93	95	2
Yen	-	122	122	-		-	40	36	4
Kota Kuala Muda	6	74	74	6		4	48	46	6
Semiling	1	44	41	4		9	3	12	-
Sungei Patani	34	977	940	71		45	273	276	42
Gurun	4	102	106	-		4	6	9	1
Baling	20	300	314	6		12	77	75	14
Kuala Ketil	8	233	236	5		10	41	42	9
Sik	3	107	80	30		1	13	10	4
Kulim	35	932	949	18		74	367	391	50
Padang Serai	7	180	185	2		-	28	27	1
Bandar Bahru	8	319	313	14		11	123	115	19
Serdang	6	29	18	17		-	6	6	-
TOTAL	318	6,247	6,212	353		328	2,271	2,273	326

APPENDIX F.

Annual Return of Rainfall from 1st January to 30th November, 1927, A.D.

Months, 1927	Alor Star.	Langkawi.	Sungei Patani.	Baling.	Kuala Ketil.	Kulim.	Serdang.	Bandar Bahru.	Padang Besar.	Perlis.
	In. C.	In. C.	In. C.	In. C.	In. C.	In. C.	In. C.	In. C.	In. C.	In. C.
January	5.37	2.02	8.35	6.95	7.28	10.70	12.00	6.30	5.03	4.06
February	2.88	2.14	2.78	2.04	3.28	5.47	7.57	6.04	1.06	4.03
March	4.09	8.97	7.27	6.19	11.55	13.41	13.17	11.54	4.59	7.93
April	8.65	9.64	13.52	13.41	18.31	20.99	13.35	8.01	8.99	5.97
May	9.31	9.16	5.07	9.70	8.49	5.57	5.32	3.99	9.31	9.06
June	7.81	12.81	4.53	5.74	5.74	3.71	7.38	6.96	5.69	5.04
July	7.80	9.72	5.02	4.06	3.65	5.13	4.00	5.65	6.66	12.88
August	14.70	19.24	6.39	7.36	5.87	4.86	3.94	4.03	9.95	14.24
September	12.15	10.62	12.76	13.60	19.62	8.96	17.43	12.42	11.37	10.80
October	9.84	12.89	13.98	18.13	19.99	14.45	16.43	8.84	5.89	8.96
November	4.26	5.94	8.61	8.03	13.16	15.23	11.78	7.41	5.17	6.77
TOTAL	86.86	103.15	88.28	95.81	116.94	108.78	112.37	81.19	73.71	89.74

APPENDIX G.

*Annual Shade Temperature at Alor Star, for the period
from 1st January to 30th November, 1927.*

MONTHS, 1927.	TEMPERATURE.			
	Mean dry bulb.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Range.
January ...	79.6	87.6	75.5	12.1
February ...	81.3	91.2	75.6	15.6
March ...	83.1	92.2	77.0	15.2
April ...	82.9	91.9	77.4	14.5
May ...	82.4	89.5	78.8	10.7
June ...	80.8	89.6	78.3	11.3
July ...	81.3	89.4	75.5	13.9
August ...	80.3	88.3	77.5	10.8
September ...	80.6	88.9	77.5	11.4
October ...	79.2	88.3	76.5	11.8
November ...	81.6	89.3	76.8	12.5

APPENDIX II.
Statistics of the Posts and Telegraphs Department, Kedah.

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Year.	Approximate number of articles passed through the Post.	NUMBER OF REGISTERED ARTICLES.		NUMBER OF PARCELS.		NUMBER OF INSURED ARTICLES (PARCELS AND LETTERS.)					
		Received.	Despatched.	Received.	Despatched.	Received.	Value.	Despatched.	Value.		
A. H.	A. D.						\$	c.	\$	c.	
1341	1923	43,368	42,846	10,054	3,593	490	45,004	49	376	37,782	50
1342	1924	45,583	45,882	10,389	3,362	560	62,374	80	334	29,996	83
1343	1925	47,546	49,417	13,092	4,753	509	51,994	70	331	32,555	78
1344	1926	52,920	52,693	14,744	5,088	660	59,588	39	412	40,606	95
1345	1927	62,651	59,140	16,833	5,889	774	80,183	82	511	57,253	43

Year.	Amount of Money Order and Postal Order Transactions.	Received.	EXPENDITURE.			APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF TELEGRAMS.			TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE LINES.		
			Personal Emoluments.	Annually Recurrent.	Special Expenditure.	Received.	Despatched.	Transit.	Line Mileage.	Wire Mileage.	Number of Telephones.
A. H.	A. D.	\$	c.	\$	c.	\$	c.	\$	c.		
1341	1923	316,869	71	76,248	00	94,002	35	23,655	05	398	382
1342	1924	352,247	20	80,398	74	102,844	64	35,386	38,935	410	407
1343	1925	392,613	25	74,023	34	105,211	95	3,537	95	440	469
1344	1926	535,789	06	103,520	59	109,893	26	20,685	92	460	517
1345	1927	720,549	61	*151,606	54	113,131	47	30,337	76	490	555

* Excludes \$6,222.71 Revenue Debit and \$8,981.40 Police Revenue.

STATE OF PERLIS,

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STATE OF PERLIS.

ANNUAL REPORT.

FOR THE YEAR A.H 1345 (12TH JULY, 1926, TO
30TH JUNE, 1927).

PREFATORY NOTE.

I.—GEOGRAPHICAL.

1. Perlis is a small State, about 316 square miles in area, between the 6th and 7th parallels of latitude, the coast line running north-west and south-east.

On the west the State is bounded by a range of mountains running north and south which separate it from the Siamese Province of Setul.

On the east the boundary is with the Siamese Province of Nakawn Sritamarat and the Malay State of Kedah and on the south with the State of Kedah.

Padang Besar on the main trunk line to Bangkok is the frontier railway-station between Siam and Malaya.

The population is about 44,500, of whom some 40,000 are Malays.

II.—HISTORICAL.

2. Perlis was made a separate State by the Siamese in about 1841 A.D., when an Arab named Syed Hussin, whose father, Syed Harun, had previously acquired the status of a local chief, was made Raja.

The present Raja, Syed Alwi ibni Almerhum Syed Safi, is the fourth who held that position under the suzerainty of Siam.

A European Adviser was appointed from Bangkok in 1905 at the request of the Raja to aid him in putting the State's Finances in order and remained until 15th July, 1909, when, in consequence of a treaty concluded between Great Britain and Siam, whereby the suzerainty of Siam was exchanged for that of Great Britain, the duties were handed over to a British Adviser.

Mr. Meadows Frost, M.C.S., was the first to act in the new appointment.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1345 A.H.

I.—FINANCIAL.

1. The Revenue of the State for the year amounted to \$614,665 on an Estimate of \$536,670 and exceeded that of the previous year by \$20,567.

The advance in Revenue during the past 5 years is shown by the following figures:—

A.H.			\$
1341	..	..	397,187
1342	..	..	453,452
1343	..	..	470,616
1344	..	..	594,098
1345	..	..	614,665
1346	(Estimated)	..	570,030

The Revenue in 1327 (1909), the first year of British Administration, was \$102,552.

2. The Expenditure amounted to \$630,768 and the Expenditure in 1344 was \$563,004. The Estimate was \$598,636.

Expenditure included a sum of \$50,000 paid in reduction of the debt to the Government of the Federated Malay States which stood at the end of the year at \$150,000 and at the time of writing has been reduced by a further payment to \$100,000. The excess over the Estimate is mainly due to a supplement of \$20,000 to the provision for water supply.

Details are given in Appendices A and B.

3. A statement of Assets and Liabilities at the end of the two years 1344 and 1345 is given below:—

Assets.	At end of 1344.		At end of 1345.	
	\$	c.	\$	c.
Cash in Treasury	11,908	92	29,599	90
Cash in Bank Fixed Deposit ...	50,000	00	...	...
10 " Current account ...	106,505	45	106,311	60
Investments	295,000	00	295,000	00
Advances	67,337	07	89,034	28
TOTAL ...	530,781	44	519,945	78

Liabilities	At end of 1344.		At end of 1345.	
	\$	c.	\$	c.
Debt to F.M.S. Government ...	200,000	00	150,000	00
Deposits	51,594	94	64,710	66
Excess of Assets	276,186	50	305,235	12
TOTAL ...	530,781	44	519,945	78

Investments, which consist of Straits Settlements Government securities, are entered at face value.

A considerable sum under Deposits will ultimately be credited to Revenue.

Advances bear interest varying from 4 per cent to 8 per cent.

II.—AUDIT.

4. The work of this office was carried out by a Senior Clerk and two Junior Clerks under the supervision of the Adviser who performs the duties of State Auditor.

5. Fifty five regular audits of Offices were performed, representing approximately a quarterly examination, and 846 audits of out-station Police, Chandu, Customs, and Municipal accounts, representing rather more than a monthly inspection.

6. A large number of surprise examinations were conducted by the Adviser.

7. The cost of the office, including salaries, was only \$2,292 and the work of the Clerks was very satisfactory.

III.—CHANDU MONOPOLY.

8. The total amount of prepared opium sold was 19,812 tahils, the profit on sale being \$219,227 (19,314 tahils and \$195,863 in 1344).

9. Opium was sold at 6 Government retail shops to male adult Chinese only. There are now no licensed retail shops in the State.

10. There were 12 prosecutions before the Courts with 12 convictions.

Fines amounted to \$1,237.

11. The total Expenditure of the Department was \$8,942, of which Personal Emoluments accounted for \$4,885 and repurchase of dross \$2,488. 624 tahils of dross were bought back by Government.

12. Enche Wan Ahamad, State Treasurer, acted as Superintendent throughout the year. The staff consisted of 8 Clerks and 5 Revenue Officers.

IV.—CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

13. Enche Wan Ahamad bin Wan Daud, State Treasurer, who had been sent to study in the Head Office at Kuala Lumpur, was Officer-in-Charge throughout the year.

14. An Enactment and Rules were passed by the State Council in the 3rd month of the year (September, 1926). The English version was copied from the Federated Malay States law, but the Malay version was altered in order to render it intelligible locally.

15. Two societies were started, one among Government Servants at Kangar with a membership of 100, and one at Kuala Perlis, a fishing village, with 58 members. Both are doing well.

16. There is a great demand for Rural Credit Societies and several have been started since the end of the year under review.

17. There seems to be every reason to hope that the movement will be a success in this State, as Perlis appears to be an ideal soil for the seed of co-operation where the population is almost exclusively Malay. The advantages of the movement, at any rate, are fully understood, and the whole-hearted support of His Highness the Raja, the State Council and the Chief Kathi has had a marked effect.

18. Expenditure on salaries amounted to \$1,092 and on other charges to \$669.

V.—CUSTOMS AND HARBOURS.

A. CUSTOMS.

19. The total Revenue amounted to \$218,021 a decrease of only \$400 on the abnormal revenue for the previous year.

The principal items were:—

	1344.	1345.
	\$	\$
Import duty on liquor ..	35,745	35,377
" " " tobacco ..	52,100	56,203
Export duty on poultry ..	6,147	8,214
" " " padi and rice ..	33,742	28,461
" " " tin-ore ..	64,245	58,417
" " " rubber ..	9,563	10,086
" " " fish ..	4,337	7,592

20. The amount of dutiable articles imported was as follows:—

	1344.	1345.
Tobacco (pikuls) ..	538	552
Cigars (lbs) ..	314	605
Cigarettes (lbs) ..	34,039	33,391
European spirits (gallons) ..	1,416	1,855
Chinese spirits (gallons) ..	3,264	2,446
Beer, Cider etc. (gallons) ..	2,580	3,576
Kerosine oil (gallons) ..	90,960	99,487
Petroleum (gallons) ..	30,324	39,280

21. The quantity of the principal articles exported is given below:—

	1344.	1345.
Tin-ore (pikuls) ..	6,706	5,551
Padi and rice (pikuls) ..	229,520	148,000
Fish (pikuls) ..	5,488	6,657
Poultry ..	61,469	82,027
Eggs ..	2,701,390	3,507,008
Rubber (pikuls) ..	3,674	3,745
Cattle (Head) ..	604	42
Sheep and goats (Head) ..	489	146
Hides (pikuls) ..	231	193
Copra (pikuls) ..	2,288	1,505
Betel-nut (pikuls) ..	734	616

Other exports include guano, tapioca flour, ataps, firewood and honey.

B.—MARINE AND HARBOURS.

22. Junks entering decreased from 388 to 248 and tonnage from 8,437 to 6,575. Small boats entering decreased from 533 to 338. Calls by motor-boats amounted to 105. The reduction in numbers of small boats and motor-boats is mainly due to restriction of traffic with the western coast of Siam on the advice of the Medical Authority.

Figures for vessels leaving are identical with those entering.

23. Lights were maintained at Kuala Perlis and at Kuala Sanglang.

24. Fishing licences were issued for 176 *belat pandak* (204), 44 *belat panjang*, (25), 10 deep-water *pukat* (13), and 123 in-shore *pukat* (124). 740 boats (761) were registered. Figures for 1344 are given in brackets.

Harbour Revenue amounted to \$2,137, as against \$2,272 in 1344.

25. Twelve prosecutions were brought in matters relating to Customs with 11 convictions and six relating to Harbours with five convictions.

26. Expenditure by the Customs and Harbours Department amounted to \$13,647.

Enche Muhamad Arshad bin Che Matt, the Nestor of Perlis, was in charge throughout the year and performed the duties of Registrar of Exports and Imports.

The working of this office is a model to younger Officers.

VI.—EDUCATION.

27. Nineteen schools, including schools for girls at Kangar and Arau, were maintained.

Five new school buildings of a better type were erected at Jejawi, Bintong, Utan Aji, Sungei Berembang and Kayang, to replace old and unserviceable buildings.

The staff consisted of a Visiting Teacher, an Assistant Visiting Teacher, a Visiting Teacher Koran, and 85 Teachers, including Teachers of the Koran.

All schools were visited by the Adviser, who was present also at most of the annual examinations. Mrs. Williams continued to take a great interest in the girls' schools, where greater emphasis is being laid on handicraft as opposed to reading and writing, pure and simple. Considerable natural ability was discovered and both schools exhibited with success at the Agricultural Show and were awarded diplomas.

Total Expenditure amounted to \$34,865 on an estimate of \$36,040. Expenditure in the previous year was \$27,366.

The number of school-children on the Register at the end of the year was 2,047, an increase of 66 on the figure for the previous year.

The percentage of attendance was 85 and of attendance at Koran classes 84.

28. Vernacular instruction is given up to the 5th standard. 66 boys passed this standard at the annual examination, a similar number to that for the previous year. The higher standard set for the previous year was therefore maintained.

The annual Koran examination at all schools was conducted by the Chief Kathi. The number of entries was 545 as compared with 341 in 1344, and the percentage of passes was 82 as against 80 in the previous year.

Seven boys were studying at the Penang Free School at Government expense. Three left during the year, two to take up appointments in the State and one to undergo a course of training as a Probationary Inspector at the Police Depot, Kuala Lumpur, with the kind permission of the Commissioner, Federated Malay States.

Two lads are studying at the 'Sultan Idris Teachers' Training College, Tanjong Malim, and are now in their second year.

About 800 school-children* attended the King's Birthday Parade and gave an exhibition of physical drill. They were presented with "Empire Day" Medals.

VII.—HEALTH AND CLIMATE.

A.—MEDICAL.

29. Mr. V. Krishna Pillai, a Kedah Dresser, was in charge of the Hospital until the 4th month (October, 1926), when he was relieved by Mr. R. Sivasambandam who was appointed Assistant Surgeon-in-Charge of the Perlis Hospital. Mr. Sivasambandam was obtained direct from India by the kind offices of the State Surgeon, Kedah, and is on three years agreement with this Government.

I stated in my report for the previous year that an Assistant Surgeon was being obtained in the hope that more up-to-date methods may prove a remedy for the undoubted unpopularity of the Hospital. This hope has been abundantly fulfilled and it is impossible to speak too highly of the untiring and conscientious way in which Mr. Sivasambandam has carried out his duties. His path has been made appreciably easier, particularly among the women, by the presence of a European Lady whose voluntary services have always been at his disposal. The advantage of the new appointment is, however, best indicated by the figures which are given in this section.

30. The number of in-patients increased from 620 to 1,007, of which 84 were women. In 1344 only 43 women were treated.

The percentage of deaths was 5.6 as compared with 6.93 in 1344, or, if deaths within 48 hours of admission are omitted, 3.5, as against 4.35 in the previous year.

The daily average of patients was 37.23 as compared with 28.31 in 1344. The largest number on one day was 59.

Six major operations and 1,996 minor operations were performed and 24 post mortems were held.

Of the 1,107 patients treated, 497 were Indians, 339 were Chinese and 157 were Malays.

Many more Malays would come to Hospital for treatment, if separate accommodation were provided for better class patients. At present, there is one general ward and a women's ward only. It is proposed to erect a hut "family" ward, with accommodation for two families, to meet this need.

Three thousand nine hundred and seventy two specimens were examined in the laboratory (1,637 in 1344).

Principal diseases were malaria, ankylostomiasis, dysentery, tuberculosis and venereal disease. Malaria cases numbered 453 with 13 deaths. There were 15 deaths from pneumonia and 6 from tuberculosis. A considerable number of Chinese Mining Coolies, most of whom come from Perak to work on Perlis mines, come for admission at an advanced stage of pulmonary tuberculosis.

31. Out-door patients numbered 6,434 as compared with 4,249 in the previous year: of these 3,012 were Malays, 1,797 Indians and 1,426 Chinese. A large number of persons, chiefly Malay women and children, came for treatment at the Residency.

A Malay Mid-wife is needed for the Hospital. One has since been obtained.

The Travelling Dispensary again did most useful work and is much appreciated.

The number of vaccinations performed was 2,363.

The total number of intravenous injections of neo-salvarsan was 2,125 (1,363 in 1344), of which 1,704 were for yaws and 421 for venereal disease. 58 school-boys were treated for yaws.

32. Revenue amounted to \$1,669, \$941 being for Hospital fees and \$728 for sale of medicines. Revenue in 1344 was \$1,241.

Expenditure was \$20,921 (\$20,143 in 1344), of which \$8,391 was for salaries and \$12,530 was expended on other charges.

33. One case was sent to the Central Mental Hospital, Tanjong Rambutan, where there are now 17 Perlis patients. One Southern Indian was sent to the Decrepit Home, Kuala Lumpur, and 3 Southern Indian adults and 2 children were repatriated to India through the Labour Office at Penang.

The State Surgeon, Kedah, paid monthly visits to the Hospital, in addition to advising on more important matters.

B.—VITAL STATISTICS.

34. Nine hundred and twenty births were registered during the year, of which 790 were Malays, 86 Chinese, 31 Siamese, 11 Southern Indians and 2 Northern Indians.

Five hundred and seventeen were males and 403 females.

The figure for Malay births is considerably above the average.

The Birth rate is 20.83 per 1,000.

35. Eight hundred and twenty nine deaths were registered: 650 Malays, 125 Chinese, 31 Siamese and 23 Southern Indians.

Four hundred and seventy were males and 359 females.

Two hundred and thirty persons died over 50 years of age, 193 between 30 and 50, 140 between '10 and 30, 135 between 1 and 10 years and 129 infants under 12 months. Infant mortality is 136.08 per 1,000.

The death rate is 18.22 per 1,000.

The population of the State is about 44, 500; of these some 40,000 are Malays.

C.—VETERINARY.

36. Three thousand, three hundred and seventy nine licences for cattle were issued during the year.

No cattle were imported owing to movement restriction.

Owing to similar restrictions only 36 head of cattle were exported after careful consideration of each individual case. It has been necessary to restrict export owing to the impossibility of replacement due to the prevalence of cattle disease in Siam.

An attempt to improve the local strain of cattle by the importation of specially selected half-breed bulls which are found to be best suited to local conditions is being made.

Foot and mouth disease broke out towards the close of the year and spread throughout the State. Fortunately it occurred in a mild form, generally only lasting one day, but considerable delay has been occasioned to ploughing, and padi-planting has generally been late this season. No deaths occurred among full-grown animals, but a few weakly calves succumbed to the disease.

37. No further case of rabies occurred but stringent measures with regard to the licensing of dogs were continued. Only 43 dogs were licensed during the year, and 164 were shot making a total of 1,139 destroyed since the last case.

D.—RAINFALL.

38. The rainfall at Kangar totalled 80.53 inches (59.43 in 1344). The greatest rainfall in 24 hours was 3.63 inches on 22 Shaaban (25th February, 1927).

The State mercifully escaped the floods which devastated many parts of Malaya at the close of 1926, though the rainfall was unusually heavy during the last week of that year.

A table is given in appendix D of the rainfall for the past 5 years.

VIII.—JUDICIAL.

A.—COURTS.

39. The revenue collected in the Civil and Criminal Courts amounted to \$18,714, as compared with \$18,077 in 1344 and \$15,033 in 1343.

Expenditure was \$12,897.

The Revenue of the Sheriah Court amounted to \$1,608' (\$1,534 in 1344).

40. The work done in the Courts is tabulated hereunder:—

CRIMINAL COURTS.

		Cases from 1344	Instituted in 1345.	Disposed of in 1345	Pending at end of 1345.
Appeal Court	...	...	19	19	...
Senior Court	...	1	22	23	...
Junior Court	...	4	447	443	8
Sheriah Court	...	7	30	32	5

CIVIL COURTS.

		Cases from 1344.	Instituted in 1345.	Disposed of in 1345.	Pending at end of 1345.
Senior Court (Appeal)		2	40	42	...
Junior Court	...	23	614	621	16
Sheriah Court	...	17	60	58	19

41. Of 53 administration suits set down for hearing, 51 were disposed of during the year.

42. Of 19 criminal appeals instituted in 1345, 7 were dismissed, 7 were allowed and in 4 cases the decision of the Lower Court was varied. One appeal was withdrawn.

Of 40 civil appeals instituted in 1345, 19 were dismissed, 11 were allowed and in 10 cases the order of the Lower Court was varied.

43. There were 4 criminal appeals to the Raja's Court, the final court of Appeal, all of which were dismissed.

There were 3 civil appeals to the Raja's Court; two were dismissed and in one case the appeal was allowed.

B.—PRISONS.

44. The Adviser is Superintendent of Prisons and is assisted by a Gaoler. The staff consisted at the end of the year of 4 Sikh N.C.O's and six Sikh and 9 Malay Warders.

There were 47 prisoners remaining at the end of the previous year. 125 were admitted during the year, 4 of whom were women; one woman was transferred to Alor Star Prison, one prisoner died and one working outside the gaol escaped. 43 prisoners remained at the end of the year.

Forty four offences by Prisoners and 7 by Warders were dealt with by the Superintendent. 35 prisoners were punished and 9 discharged and all the cases against Warders were dismissed.

In the 7th month (January), a falling off in discipline became marked and it was found necessary to make a change of Gaoler. Tuan Syed Ahmad bin Tuan Syed Salim took over the duties of Gaoler, and discipline at once resumed the normal; much credit to due to him for the way in which he tackled the situation.

45. Rice is purchased and milled in the Gaol. 19,280 gantangs of padi were milled into 9,382 gantangs of rice and sold for \$3,506.

Rice was supplied to the Medical and Public Works Departments as well as used in the Gaol.

Materials for manufacture were bought during the year at a cost of \$1,542, and manufactures to the value of \$2,409 were sold.

The work done inside the Gaol included rice-milling, carpentry, basketry, chick-making, and licence-and other notice-board writing.

A large amount of furniture was made for Government Departments, and a carpentry exhibit was sent to the local Agricultural Show where it was much admired.

A considerable volume of extra-mural work was performed in the way of scavenging, grass-cutting, drain-cleaning, gardening and so forth.

46. The health of prisoners was again very good. This is attributed to the amount of open-air work performed.

47. The total revenue collected amounted to \$5,916 (\$5,714 in 1344) and expenditure to \$15,263 (\$15,601 in 1344).

IX.—LANDS AND MINES.

48. The total Revenue amounted to \$89,340 on an Estimate of \$85,250. The revenue did not quite reach the record figure of \$95,246 for 1344 but was very largely in excess of any previous collection.

Land rents, recurrent, amounted to \$34,838, and arrears to the amount of \$4,463 were collected.

In addition to the arrears collected, a sum of \$5,615 was written off as irrecoverable. A large amount of land rent still remains to be written off which has been improperly entered in the rent rolls for some years. So far, only the largest mukim has been dealt with, but it is hoped to complete this task during the present year. The amount of rent outstanding which can be recovered is probably now about \$5,000. Two years ago it was some \$30,000, or nearly one whole year's revenue from current rents.

Five thousand, five hundred and fifty notices of demand for rent were issued and 1,296 warrants of attachment (2,823 and 1,101 in 1344).

A sum of \$8,284 was collected on land held under temporary occupation licence. It has been decided not to continue this form of licence except in places where Government does not intend to alienate land.

Survey fees amounted to \$7,619 (\$6,307 in 1344).

A large demand for agricultural land still continued and the amount realised by sale rose from \$17,792 in 1344 to \$24,251.

Most of the applicants have been local or Kedah Malays. Few Malays come from the Federated Malay States to look for land, but a large number from Perak and Kedah have passed through going to Singgora in Southern Siam where land is said to be very cheap. A small party of Mendiling Malays from Sumatra have settled, but the Bugis who came a few years ago have all departed, leaving only the name of a river behind them.

Twelve hundred and eighty eight relongs were alienated for padi planting, 430 for "kampong" cultivation and 1,792 for the planting of rubber.

Of an estimated area alienated in the State of 71,382 relongs, 55,730 relongs is wet padi land.

49. The Office of the Inspector of Lands, which was revived last year, again did most useful work in the collection of arrears of rent and in the investigation of large numbers of cases of occupation of State land without authority and a still larger number of cases where letters of administration of estates of deceased persons have not yet been obtained.

A great deal of difficulty has been experienced by the Land Office owing to a double system of registration in the Court and Land Office of documents dealing with land which has been in force for the past 19 years. It is now proposed to effect registration in the Land Office only. The necessary Enactments have since been passed.

Seven hundred and seventy seven small agricultural grants were received from the Survey Office and 640 issued to land owners in exchange for old titles.

Tuan Syed Hassan bin Syed Zain continued to perform the duties of Inspector of Lands.

50. Mines Revenue amounted to \$3,724 as compared with \$3,161 in 1344. Rent amounted to \$2,865, survey fees to \$440, and \$400 was collected on the issue of 17 prospecting licences.

Two mining licences and 11 mining certificates were issued.

51. The padi crop was estimated to be 9,655,939 gantangs. The estimated area planted is given as 51,312 relongs of wet padi and 63 relongs of dry (hill) padi.

The average yield was 188 gantangs a relong.

This is an advance on the excellent crop of the previous year when the average was 184 gantangs a relong and an advance of about 20 per cent on the average of two years ago, a proof that the selected seed imported from Krian is doing well.

The prospects for the coming season are good as rain has been plentiful but disease among cattle mentioned elsewhere in this report has delayed ploughing, and planting-out is late in many parts of the State.

52. The total Expenditure of the office amounted to \$21,629 and of the office of the Inspector of Lands to \$3,318.

Tuan Syed Idrus bin Tuan Che Indut continued to be Commissioner of Lands and Mines.

X.—MUNICIPAL.

53. The Board held ten meetings at Kangar, 2 at Arau, 1 at Padang Besar and 2 at Kaki Bukit, the Mines village.

The usual matters relating to health, buildings etc. were dealt with in these areas which were well kept.

54. There were seven prosecutions for offences under the Enactment with 7 convictions.

55. Revenue amounted to \$16,153 and Expenditure to \$9,534 as compared with \$15,976 and \$9,174 in 1344.

Enche Muhammad Arshad bin Che Matt, Collector of Customs, continued to officiate as Chairman of the Board throughout the year.

The Board consists of the Chairman, the Assistant Engineer, the Assistant Surgeon, the Chief of Police and from two to four unofficial Members for each of the various areas. The thanks of Government are due to these unofficial Members for their valuable assistance.

XI.—POLICE AND CRIME.

A.—POLICE.

56. Enche Matt bin Haji Kassim continued as Head of the Police Department.

The Head of the Police also supervises the issue of timber passes, the veterinary work, the registration of births and deaths and the registration of vehicles.

Che Ahmad bin Haji Abdulrahman, who had been studying at Government expense for some years at the Penang Free School, was sent to undergo a course of training at the Police Depot, Kuala Lumpur, by kind permission of the Commissioner of Police, Federated Malay States.

57. Six Police Stations were maintained and a new Station near Mata Ayer Railway Station was completed during the year.

The strength of the Force at the close of the year was 76 of all ranks; with the exception of 2 Northern (Muhammadan) Indian Constables, 2 Siamese Constables and a Siamese Detective Corporal, the whole Force is Malay.

Twelve recruits, all Perlis born, were enrolled.

Discipline was fair. Two cases were tried before the Court, with a conviction in each case.

There were 5 dismissals and one desertion. Three men were retired, with gratuities, on grounds of ill-health.

The health of the Force was good, except at Kaki Bukit, the Mines village, though there was an improvement at this place.

58. One thousand and eleven licences were issued under various Enactments, as compared with 1,184 in 1344. The principal decrease was under dog licences which fell from 154 to 43 owing to stringent measures to prevent recurrence of rabies. One hundred and sixty four dogs were destroyed during the year.

59. A musketry course was fired by all ranks. The result showed that, while the best scores were lower than in the previous year, the average standard of shooting had risen appreciably. Substantial prizes were offered and a great deal of keenness to improve was exhibited.

60. The Revenue of the Department amounted to \$8,470, a slight decrease from the figures of the previous year, mainly due to reduction of cattle licences issued and transferred.

B.—CRIME.

61. Two hundred and sixty reports were received at the various Stations, of which 199 were admitted and 65 were not proceeded with or were referred to the Courts. Discoveries were made in 169 cases, a considerable improvement on the figures for the previous year.

Seventy reports of theft were admitted, with 54 successes. Twelve reports of cattle theft were admitted and in five cases recovery was effected. There were 4 reports of theft from the Quarantine Station, Padang

Besar, but although reference was at once made to the Siamese Authorities, none of the animals was recovered. Three reports of robbery were admitted and a conviction was obtained in one case.

Three murders were committed. Arrest was effected in each case. In one case sentence of death was passed, commuted by the State Council to a life sentence, and in the second and third, sentences of 4 years and 2 years rigorous imprisonment, respectively, on a reduced charge were imposed.

Five bad characters came from Setul in Siam and prepared a gang-robbery at a coast village when every one was away at the agricultural show at Kangar. The Penghulu was, however, informed and the men were arrested with a varied assortment of weapons and were sentenced to 5 years rigorous imprisonment. One of the men is wanted by the Siamese Government on completion of his sentence.

62. Four hundred and fourteen cases involving 613 persons were sent for trial by the Courts, an increase of 82 on the figures for the previous year. In 366 cases 502 persons were convicted and in 48 (111 persons) prosecution failed. The increase is due more to a larger number of cases being brought under Enactments than to any increase of Penal Code prosecutions.

Twenty two cases were heard by the Senior Court. In 17 cases a conviction was obtained. Forty persons were involved, of whom 22 were convicted and 18 discharged.

There was one extradition case in which two persons, a Siamese man and woman, were surrendered to the Siamese authorities.

XII.—POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

63. The following correspondence was dealt with at Kangar Post Office:—

	1344.	1345.
Letters ...	54,119	60,593
Registered articles ...	3,091	3,628
Parcels ...	707	1,114
Insured Parcels ...	5 (value \$177.10).	14 (Value \$728.25).
C. O. D. Parcels ...	164 (Trade charges \$1,210 Delivery Fees 24).	225 (Trade charges \$2,108 Delivery fees \$33).

TELEGRAMS.

	1344.	1345.
Despatched ...	2,093	2,119
Delivered ...	1,911	2,093

Thirty three thousand four hundred and forty nine dollars worth of money-and postal-orders were handled, an increase of some \$4,000 on the figure for the previous year.

At Padang Besar Railway Station, on the Siamese frontier, 33,033 letters were dealt with (25,883), 1,064 registered articles (941) and 58 parcels (22). Figures for 1344 are given in brackets. Telegrams were handled by the Railway Telegraph Office.

64. This Department is maintained by the Kedah Government which also controls a telephone system sadly in need of modernisation.

XIII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

65. The total Expenditure of the Department amounted to \$242,104 on an estimate, including supplementary votes, of \$251,192.

Personal Emoluments accounted for \$15,688 and other charges, annually recurrent, for \$3,041. The estimate was \$16,386 and \$3,146 respectively.

RECURRENT EXPENDITURE.

A.—ROADS, STREETS AND BRIDGES.

66. Expenditure was \$40,078 on an estimate of \$40,200.

Thirty four and three-quarter miles of metalled road were upkept at a cost of \$1,058 a mile and 9¾ miles were remetalled during the year. The roads are now in excellent order.

Seven miles of unmetalled road and 22¼ miles of path were maintained at a total cost of \$1,078.

B.—BUILDINGS AND MISCELLANEOUS WORKS.

67. The total number of Government Buildings in the State was 147, which were upkept at a cost of \$5,400. Nine new buildings were completed and one was purchased.

A sum of \$9,056 was spent on Minor Works, foreseen and unforeseen. Several buildings were not quite finished at the end of the year. This is chiefly due to the difficulty of getting suitable contractors for small works. An effort has been made to encourage local Malays to take up these smaller jobs but in most cases, while the work is creditably done, time is not an essential to the contract.

68. Some 56 miles of canals and rivers were cleared during the year, a great advance on the figures (38) for the previous year. In addition water-hyacinth was cleared from 11 miles. The total cost was \$4,986 on an estimate of \$5,000. All the work was done by contract and Malay Labour was employed where possible.

SPECIAL SERVICES.

69. About 90 per cent of the Simpang Ampat—Arau canal was completed at the end of the year. Completion was delayed by the impossibility of working after rain in this very swampy country. This is a most useful work and is of the highest importance to the native population.

70. Cooly-lines were constructed for the Department at the 3rd mile on the Mines Road and for the Sanitary Board at Arau and Kaki Bukit the Mines village.

Of 5 new school buildings, two were completed at the end of the year and the other 3 were well under way. The contract was let to a Malay.

A new store for the Department and a Dhoby-house were erected.

71. Four new timber irrigation dams were completed in the coastal area and one timber and 2 masonry dams were repaired. A new concrete dam on the Arau canal was constructed by a Malay Contractor.

72. Metalling of the Bukit Ketri—Chuping road—2 miles—was completed and the road opened. This new section is exceptionally fine, scenically, and renders a circular drive possible in the State for the first time.

Two miles of earthwork, making 4 in all, were completed on the new road from Arau running due east. It is hoped in time to link up Arau with the Kedah Trunk Road to Siam, but in the meanwhile the road is of great service in opening up the south-eastern portion of the State.

A motor-lorry and a steam-roller were purchased during the year.

73. Another reinforced concrete bridge was completed on the main road during the year and about 75 per cent of a 34 foot span reinforced concrete bridge was achieved on the Mines road. Departmental Labour was employed. There are now no timber bridges on the main road, with the exception of the 3 miles from Kangar to Tebing Tinggi on the Perlis River which are being dealt with during the current year.

74. The Kangar water-supply was completed in the 4th month (October, 1926) and opened by H. H. the Raja. The steel service-tank is of 50,000 gallons capacity and stands on sixteen 20 foot precast concrete block piers. It was found necessary to raise the impounding dam and guide-wall at Headworks.

The Arau water-supply could not be completed owing to the non-arrival of 3 miles of 3-inch piping from England. Two miles of main piping were completed, a service tank similar to that at Kangar was erected, and the distribution scheme was finished, including public stand-pipes and hydrants.

Mr. C. R. Savege continued to act as Assistant Engineer, Water-works.

75. The average labour force of the Department was 130. Health was generally good.

Mr. P. H. V. Hanitsch was Assistant Engineer until the 6th month (December, 1926), when he was succeeded by Mr. G. C. Hesketh, also an Assistant Engineer of the Federated Malay States Public Works Department.

The State Engineer, Kedah, gave valuable advice on more important matters and paid monthly visits to the State.

XIV.—STATE COUNCIL.

76. There were 38 meetings of the State Council, as in the previous year. H. H. the Raja presided at every meeting.

The following Enactments were passed:—

1. The Padang Besar Quarantine Enactment.
2. The Co-operative Societies Enactment.
3. The Labour Code.

XV.—SURVEYS.

77. The expenditure of the Department amounted to \$18,002 on an estimate of \$21,380. Expenditure in 1344 was \$15,814.

78. Preliminary plans following demarcation were drawn in the Kedah District Survey Office, Alor Star, while the more rigorous drafting of the 2-chain sheets and the preparation of titles were carried out in the Kedah Head Office at Kulim.

Twenty two miles of Control Traverse (theodolite survey) were surveyed.

79. Thirteen hundred and sixty four lots, including a large timber reserve, covering 5,181 acres were demarcated.

The total number of lots demarcated at the end of the year amounted to 23,150. A good deal of headway in settlement was made.

A plane table survey of Kangar town was completed during the year at my request.

80. Eleven hundred and seventy two lots were plotted on preliminary plans, and 1,232 lots were added to the 2-chain sheets which are based on co-ordinated chain and compass traverses controlled by theodolite traverses.

Seven hundred and eighty six small grants were sent to the Land Office making a total of 5,751.

Sun-prints of 125 areas in three mukims were prepared and sent to the Land Office for preliminary settlement.

Requisitions, indicating completion of preliminary settlement, for the survey of 3,141 lots were received from the Land Office, making a total of 10,058.

81. The co-ordinates of 4 trigonometrical stations were computed by the Survey Department of the Federated Malay States free of charge, making it possible to put in hand the computation of all the control Surveys in the State which had previously been delayed.

Mr. W. J. C. Stevens was in charge of the Department throughout the year, and the field-work was supervised by Mr. O. Watson, Assistant Superintendent, North Kedah.

A statement of figures and cost is given in Appendix C.

XVI.—GENERAL.

82. His Highness the Raja enjoyed excellent health throughout the year and presided at every meeting of the State Council. His Highness continued to show the greatest personal interest in all matters affecting the welfare of the State.

I wish to record my sincere thanks to His Highness and to the Members of the State Council for their cordial co-operation with me during the period under review.

His Highness paid a private visit to Kuala Lumpur and Malacca in October.

83. The Kangar water-supply was opened by His Highness on the 10th October with considerable ceremony to mark a most important mile-stone in the history of the State.

84. The padi crop was an excellent one as the devastating floods from which other parts of the Peninsula suffered did not affect this State. The selected seed imported from Krian is now firmly established and is most popular.

85. The first agricultural show to be held in this State was opened by His Highness on 14th May. It proved, although admittedly an experiment, an unqualified success. 21,000 persons went through the show buildings in the two days, and thousands more must have visited the side-shows in the evening. A very popular feature was the elephant racing in which some 25 animals took part. The best and most interesting exhibits were subsequently sent to the Kuala Lumpur exhibition, where the model houses attracted considerable attention.

86. The King's Birthday was celebrated by a parade of Police and by drill by Malay and Chinese school children to whom "Empire Day" medals were presented.

87. A Christmas Tree was given at the Residency and was attended by some 120 children of Malay Government Officers accompanied by their Mothers or Grandmothers.

88. His Highness particularly asks that his appreciation of the work done by Mrs. Williams in the Hospital, the Girls' schools and among the Women of the State in general, may be placed on record.

The great prosperity experienced in the previous year continued throughout the year.

P. S. WILLIAMS, M.C.S.,
Ag. British Adviser, Perlis.

Kangar, PERLIS.
30th September, 1927.

APPENDIX A.

*Return of Annual Revenue collected in the years
A.H. 1343. 1344. and 1345.*

Headings.				1343.	1344.	1345.
				\$	\$	\$
Land	...	...	...	56,811	92,012	85,570
Mines	...	...	...	2,676	3,161	3,724
Forests	...	...	...	1,233	1,558	1,610
Customs	...	...	...	157,723	217,811	217,416
Chandu Monopoly	...	...	...	185,882	200,132	220,874
Farms and Licences	...	...	...	4,067	6,914	9,104
Harbours	...	...	...	2,300	2,272	2,137
Courts	...	...	...	15,033	18,077	18,714
Sheriah Court	...	...	...	1,373	1,534	1,608
Police	...	...	...	4,631	6,065	6,013
Veterinary	...	...	...	1,247	1,342	846
Municipal	...	...	...	15,097	15,976	16,153
Prison	...	...	...	5,123	5,714	5,916
Reimbursements	...	...	...	529	328	...
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	16,891	21,202	24,980
TOTAL ...				470,616	594,098	614,665

APPENDIX B.

*Return of Annual Expenditure incurred in the year
A.H. 1343, 1344 and 1345.*

Headings.	1343.	1344.	1345.
	\$	\$	\$
His Highness the Raja ...	25,560	25,560	33,678
Office Raja and Adviser ...	15,886	14,217	16,000
Treasury ...	4,213	4,114	4,751
Audit Office ...	1,956	1,780	2,292
Courts ...	11,190	11,826	12,897
Sheriah Court ...	4,292	4,607	4,517
Police ...	27,500	30,518	35,129
Lands and Mines ...	14,369	17,095	16,288
Surveys ...	17,735	14,709	16,800
Penghulus ...	5,328	5,532	5,341
Prison ...	15,177	15,601	15,263
Medical ...	18,511	20,143	20,921
Veterinary ...	788	1,083	504
Telephones ...	48	...	...
Education ...	22,133	27,366	34,865
Customs and Harbours ...	12,957	12,002	13,647
Municipal ...	7,705	9,174	9,533
Chandu Monopoly ...	1,681	4,823	8,942
Mosques ...	3,504	3,681	4,013
Political Pensions ...	11,062	11,052	12,219
Retired Allowances ...	897	1,318	4,134
Interest on loans ...	12,954	8,899	6,927
Miscellaneous ...	30,683	23,697	38,956
Public Works ...	111,515	224,038	247,015
Special Votes ...	14,181	22,236	12,818
Repayment of Loans ...	50,000	50,000	50,000
Office Inspector of Lands ...	...	...	3,318
TOTAL ...	441,825	565,071	630,768

APPENDIX C.

Progress and Cost return of Survey Field Work for the year 1345 A.H.

Nature of Survey.	Chains Measured.		Stones planted.	Lots	Relongs	Acres	Cost per chain.		Cost per relong.		Cost per lot.		Total field cost.	Remarks
	Lines.	Offsets.					\$	c.	\$	c.	\$	c.		
Control Traverses ...	1,769	...	56	SURV ...	...	...	0	92	...	...	...	1,630	26	
Plane Table Survey ...	30,540	182	4,372	1,364	7,286	5,181	0	23½	0	99	5	31	7,242	95
Total ...	30,540	182	4,372	1,364	7,286	5,181	0	24	1	02	5	47	7,462	88
Total Demarcation 1314	42,756	168	7,391	3,294	10,986	7,812	0	16½	0	65	2	19	7,232	07
														Includes a timber reserve. Kangar Town

APPENDIX D.

Rainfall, Kangar.

Months.	1921-2	1922-3	1923-4	1924-5	1925-6	1926-7
	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.
July	7.15	6.15	7.98	7.09	5.03	6.24
August	9.73	11.70	5.56	11.81	9.97	7.14
September	17.69	13.32	16.79	8.95	5.08	5.35
October	8.04	14.55	14.28	8.80	8.92	9.08
November	7.07	6.90	12.86	6.10	6.29	6.79
December	0.22	5.03	5.49	1.49	3.17	9.81
January	3.14	1.50	0.71	1.76	0.10	4.06
February	4.51	1.67	2.04	0.90	1.31	4.03
March	12.61	1.62	1.14	5.79	1.98	7.93
April	5.39	7.69	5.55	8.41	3.16	5.97
May	9.34	7.00	8.68	5.50	9.02	9.06
June	4.37	4.97	4.62	7.89	5.40	5.04
Total	89.26	82.10	85.70	74.49	59.43	80.50

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BRITISH HONDURAS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1927.

(With Financial Information up to 31st March, 1928).

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PREFACE.

Geography.

British Honduras lies on the Atlantic side of the mainland of Central America within 18° 29' 5" to 15° 53' 55" North latitude and 89° 9' 22" to 88° 10' West longitude.

The boundaries of the Colony are defined by the River Hondo and Yucatan on the north; by a straight line drawn from the rapids of Gracias a Dios on the River Sarstoon to Garbutt's Falls on the Belize River, thence north to the Mexican frontier on the west; by a portion of Guatemala with the River Sarstoon on the south; while the Bay of Honduras and the Caribbean Sea are to the east.

Its greatest length is about 174 miles and width about 68 miles. The total area is 8,598 square miles. The Colony is therefore about one-third the size of England, nearly twice the size of Jamaica, and almost equal to the whole of the British West India Islands put together. There are numerous islands, called cayes, off the mainland, whose area is about 212 square miles. Some of these are inhabited by fishermen, and on others coconuts are grown, but many of them are mere swamps and are uninhabited.

2. The city of Belize, the capital of the Colony, is approached from the sea by a narrow tortuous channel between reefs which form a natural shelter for vessels lying in the harbour. Vessels have to lie off from the shore between one and four miles, according to their draught. There is no deep water at or near the Port of Corozal, so that only boats drawing about four feet of water can approach the Port. At Commerce Bight, near the town of Stann Creek, there is a railway pier, alongside of which vessels drawing up to 20 feet can lie. Two piers, privately owned, have been erected at All Pines and Riversdale in the Stann Creek district. These can accommodate vessels drawing 14 feet and 18 feet respectively. At Punta Gorda, the chief town in the Toledo district, deep water is found only some miles from the shore. The mainland of the Colony is low and swampy near the coast, but rises inland. The northern half of the Colony is generally flat, but in the south it is hilly and mountainous, rising in the Cockscomb range to a height of 3,700 feet. The country is well watered, and its rivers, which are many, provide the chief means of communication. The soil is rich and well adapted to the growth of all tropical produce. The climate, as a tropical one, is naturally very healthy, and in Belize, where the trade winds blow, pleasant for most of the year.

History.

3. It is probable that Columbus discovered the coast about 1502, when on his way from Cuba to find a passage to the Indies. It is also probable that the great Cortez passed through the western part of the Colony on his expedition to Honduras in the year 1524. But long before Columbus and Cortez, long before the Christian era—possibly 5,000 years ago—archaeologists say that the inhabitants of this part of the world were sufficiently civilised to have an exact system of chronology. It is even thought nowadays that the civilization of Central America is older than that of Babylon or Assyria.

4. So far as modern history goes, the Colony became known to Englishmen about 1638, probably accidentally through a shipwrecked crew. It is also probable that many years ago people from Jamaica visited the Colony and, finding logwood abundant and easily accessible, established themselves. Within a very short time of their arrival they must have come in contact with

the Spaniards and Indians of Yucatan and the Peten District of Guatemala. There are records of many conflicts between them, but as England was at that time at war with Spain it was natural that the subjects of each King should fight whenever they met in this country. Indeed, long after the Thirty Years' War had ended in Europe, and Spain was our ally against France, conflicts occurred between the subjects of the Kings of England and Spain in this Colony. The Spaniards also made frequent attempts to expel Englishmen who came with their slaves from Jamaica. Help was not wanting from outside. The Governor of Massachusetts on one occasion sent a British warship, H.M.S. "King George", to help the settlers against their enemies. This was in the year 1667. Help was also received from the Mosquito Coast Indians and the Bay Island settlers. In July, 1670, Spain ceded in perpetuity to Great Britain by Treaty, with plenary right of sovereignty, all lands in the West Indies or in any part of America held by the English at the time (Article vii). Logwood establishments increased rapidly from this date. The population of the settlement amounted to 700 white settlers, among whom was the famous Admiral Benbow, and a creek on which he worked bears his name to this day. By 1671 the settlement had grown so prosperous that it was reported to King Charles II by the Governor of Jamaica as having "increased His Majesty's Customs and the natural commerce more than any of His Majesty's Colonies". This was no doubt due to the great value of logwood and mahogany.

5. By 1713 there was a settled form of government carried on by magistrates elected by the inhabitants. In 1717 the Board of Trade asserted the absolute right of Great Britain to cut logwood. In the next year the Spaniards made a determined effort to conquer the settlement and got as far as "Spanish Lookout" on the Belize River, which they fortified. In 1754 another attempt was made and defeated "principally by slaves" at Labouring Creek. In 1779 St. George's Caye was attacked and a great many settlers were captured, ill-treated, and carried off to Merida and thence to Havana, but were subsequently allowed to return. In 1786, by Treaty of London, Great Britain agreed with Spain to give up the Mosquito Coast in exchange for the settlement from the Belize River to the Sibun, including the lands lying between the two rivers, and St. George's Caye, but this was not agreeable to the Spaniards, and they continued their attacks from Mexico until finally beaten on the 10th September, 1798, at St. George's Caye.

6. From that time until about 1849 there was peace, but in that year the Indians in Yucatan rebelled against their Spanish oppressors, and many were driven across the Hondo and settled in the northern half of this Colony, and from the year 1867, when Mexico declared itself a republic and threw off the yoke of Spain, the Indians of Yucatan continued to make repeated attacks on the Colony until the year 1872.

7. The first settlers, from 1638 to 1786, managed their own affairs. Persons were annually elected to act as magistrates, at public meetings held for the purpose. These magistrates discharged all executive and judicial functions. Resolutions were passed at public meetings and they formed the laws binding on the community. The King, in 1765, gave a "constitution to the people," founded on their ancient customs, viz., "legislating by public meetings, and the election of magistrates annually by the free suffrage of the people." This, it may be remarked, was the freest constitution ever enjoyed by, or granted to, a British settlement.

Admiral Sir William Burnaby was then sent to the Settlement to make the necessary arrangements, and the inhabitants were then put in full possession of their lands and rights. Captain Cook, the celebrated navigator, accompanied Sir William Burnaby, who codified the laws and customs of the Settlement which were afterwards published and known as "Burnaby's Laws."

8. In 1786 a Superintendent was appointed by the Home Government, but during the years 1790-1797 elected magistrates again ruled the Settlement. From this latter date Superintendents were regularly appointed until 1862. An Executive Council was established in 1839 to assist the Superintendent, and in 1853 a Legislative Assembly was formally constituted, consisting of eighteen elected and three nominated members. The Settlement was declared a Colony on 12th May, 1862, and a Lieutenant-Governor was appointed subordinate to the Governor of Jamaica. In 1870 the Legislative Assembly was abolished by a local enactment, and a Legislative Council substituted therefor, consisting of five official and not less than four unofficial members, with the Lieutenant-Governor as President. Since 1913 the Council has contained six official and seven unofficial members. On 31st October, 1884, Letters Patent were proclaimed constituting the office of Governor and Commander-in-Chief, which rendered the Colony independent of Jamaica. These were renewed by Letters Patent proclaimed on 10th September, 1909.

9. The English Common Law and all statutes of the Imperial Parliament, "in abrogation or derogation, or in any way declaratory of the Common Law," passed before 1889, extend to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable, and subject to modification by Colonial ordinances. Pursuant to Ordinance No. 31 of 1923 a new and revised edition of the Laws of this Colony has been published in two volumes. This edition, referred to as "The Consolidated Laws, 1924," came into force on 4th February, 1925, and supersedes the revised edition published in 1915 and all ordinances passed before July, 1924. Appeals to His Majesty in Council are regulated by Chapter 155 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924.

10. The Executive Council consists of the Governor and three ex-officio members, and of such other persons as may from time to time be appointed with His Majesty's approval. At the date of this report there were four unofficial members.

11. For administrative purposes the Colony is divided into six districts: Belize, which includes the capital at the mouth of the river of the same name; the Corozal District; the Orange Walk District; the Cayo District; the Stann Creek District; and the Toledo District, the main station of which is Punta Gorda, in the south of the Colony.

12. A Commissioner is appointed to each District, who exercises the usual judicial functions of that office as prescribed by law. He is also ex-officio Sub-Treasurer of his District, Sub-Collector of Customs, District Postmaster, and Chairman of the local nominated District Boards.

13. Under Chapter 125 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, there is a District Board, nominated by the Governor, in each District. These Boards have jurisdiction over sanitation and public health; markets; slaughter-houses; traffic regulation; naming, numbering, and lighting of places and streets in any town within their Districts; building construction, &c. Their revenues are mainly derived from property taxes, liquor and other licences, rents and fees.

14. There is a partly nominated and partly elective Town Board in the town of Belize, established under Chapter 118 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924. The Board exercises all the functions of a District Board, and its jurisdiction extends to and includes St. George's Caye, Caye Caulker, and Ambergris Caye.

Languages.

15. English is the official language, but Spanish is spoken in some parts of the Colony, especially in the north, while there are many different dialects spoken by the Maya Indians. In the Stann Creek and Toledo Districts the Carib language prevails.

Currency.

16. The standard of currency is the gold dollar of the United States of America. The British sovereign and half-sovereign are legal tender for \$4.86 and \$2.43 respectively. There is also a subsidiary silver currency of 50 cents, 25 cents, 10 cents, and 5 cents, nickel 5 cent pieces, and bronze 1 cent pieces, coined specially for the Colony. There is paper currency of 10, 5, and 2 dollars and 1 dollar issued by the Government. Notes of the United States of America circulate freely. On 31st March, 1928, the value of the currency notes in circulation amounted to \$357,102.

The Commissioners of Currency on the same date held gold to the extent of \$282,249 and British and Colonial securities amounting to \$134,937 cost price.

The value of the reserve on 31st March, 1928, was thus \$60,084 in excess of the value of notes in circulation.

Weights and Measures.

17. The standard Imperial weights and measures are prescribed by the Weights and Measures Ordinance, Chapter 63 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, but the following local weights and measures are also in use :—

Weights.

1 Arroba	...	...	...	25 lb.
1 Quintal	...	...	...	100 lb.

Dry Measure.

1 Almud	...	...	...	5 quarts.
1 Cargo	...	...	...	60 quarts.
1 Baril	...	...	...	110 quarts.
1 Benequen	...	...	...	15 quarts.
1 Quartro	...	...	...	2½ quarts or ½ almud.
1 Shushack	...	...	...	4 almuds or 20 quarts.

Land Measure.

1 Mecate	...	...	...	25 yds. square.
1 Vara	...	...	...	11·12 of a yard.

I.—GENERAL.

18. On 19th November, 1927, the Governor and Lady Burdon returned to the Colony after a short visit to Guatemala, during which His Excellency took the opportunity of discussing with His Majesty's Minister and the Guatemalan authorities various matters of common interest. During His Excellency's absence the Government was administered by the Honourable E. W. Evans, Colonial Secretary.

19. On 30th December the City of Belize was honoured by a visit from Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh in his famous monoplane "Spirit of St. Louis." The distinguished visitor, who was on a good-will mission through Central America, arrived here from Guatemala, and was accorded a fitting reception. He left two days later for San Salvador.

20. In March another expedition from the British Museum, under Captain T. A. Joyce, O.B.E., M.A., Deputy Keeper of Ceramics and Ethnography, visited the Colony and continued the investigation, started last year, of the Maya ruins of Lubaantun in the Toledo District and Xunantunich in the Cayo District. The Colony abounds in most interesting ruins of the ancient Maya

civilization, and recently there were three exploration parties at work, one from the British Museum under Captain H. Gruning, another from the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, under Mr. Eric Thompson, and a third by Mr. Gregory Mason on behalf of the Museum of the American Indian, Haye Foundation, of New York. A considerable number of objects of stone, pottery, and shell were found and, under the law, one-half of the findings remain the property of the Colony. The objects comprised in the Colony's share were forwarded to the Field Museum for investigation and classification, after which they will probably be sent to the British Museum, for custody, pending the establishment of a local museum.

21. The Colony was represented at the Colonial Office Conference held in London during May, 1927, by Mr. J. N. Oliphant, M.B.E., Conservator of Forests.

22. Another visit in connection with the re-establishment of the sponge fishery at Turneffe Islands was made, during the year, by Mr. L. R. Crawshay, M.A., the Research Officer in the British West Indies. Turneffe has now been purchased by the Government and the foundation for a scientifically organized sponge industry is now established. A Laboratory and Research Station has since been constructed and, through the assistance of the Colonial Research Committee, Mr. Crawshay's headquarters will be transferred, temporarily, to Turneffe.

23. The Government Industrial School for Boys, at Pomona Ridge, Stann Creek, was formally opened by the Governor on 12th March, 1927. Besides the main building there is a school chapel, machine shop, carpenter's shop, sugar house, and quarters for the Principal and for the Clerk and Schoolmaster. The total area of the grounds is about 650 acres and on 31st March, 1928, there were 48 acres under cultivation, of which 26 represent the grape-fruit orchard, the remainder being devoted to tropical fruits and vegetables. There were 44 inmates at the end of the year.

24. In September Mr. L. B. Freeston of the West Indian Department of the Colonial Office visited the Colony and saw as much of the Colony as was possible in a short but very strenuous visit.

II.—FINANCE.

Revenue.

25. The revenue collected during the financial year ended 31st March, 1928, amounted to \$1,068,212.19, which was \$28,445.19 more than the Estimate and \$48,220.11 less than the amount collected in the previous financial year. The principal decreases over 1926-27 were under Customs, Revenues of Government Property, and Miscellaneous Receipts. The decrease in Customs revenue is due to the fact that the Customs revenue for 1926-27 was above average.

Expenditure.

26. The expenditure for 1927-28, which was estimated at \$1,028,572, amounted to \$1,112,083.02. This expenditure exceeded that of 1926-27 by \$71,592.91 and exceeded the Estimates by \$83,511.02.

27. The revenue and expenditure totals for the last five years are as follows :—

				<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
				\$	\$
1923-24	...	...	...	1,093,149	1,203,220
1924-25	...	...	...	938,969	920,998
1925-26	...	...	...	996,287	971,197
1926-27	...	...	...	1,116,432	1,040,490
1927-28	...	...	...	1,068,212	1,112,083

Assets and Liabilities.

28. The assets of the Colony on 31st March, 1928, were \$1,611,299.47, and the liabilities \$1,400,641.78, showing an excess of assets over liabilities of \$210,657.69. The assets are chiefly investments on account of funds, and sums advanced in anticipation of the proposed loan. The assets consisted of cash in fixed deposits and current accounts in the local bank and with the Crown Agents for the Colonies in London, unissued stores, investments in gilt-edged securities, and sundry recoverable advances. The main liabilities represent amounts due to the Savings Bank and to the Crown Agents for the Colonies. The cash balances available amounted to \$56,565.93.

29. The Colony possesses further assets in the form of Crown lands, estimated to amount to over two and a-half million acres, or nearly half the area of the Colony. The revenue derived from Crown lands during 1927-28 amounted to \$44,924.46.

Public Debt.

30. At the close of the financial year the funded public debt of the Colony stood at \$746,734. Against this liability there was an accumulated sinking fund of \$118,184, as compared with \$104,340 the previous year. Of the loan of \$1,250,000, authorized by Chapter 32 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, to meet the cost of certain public works and Forestry Development, the sum of \$917,002 has been expended to date.

Government Savings Bank.

31. The Government Savings Bank is a sub-department of the Treasury. Branches are established in each of the five out-districts, the head office being in Belize. The Bank had a sum of \$195,200.29 to the credit of 1,399 depositors on 31st March, 1928, against \$177,255.58 to the credit of 1,414 depositors in the previous year.

The amount invested as at 31st March, 1928, was \$175,121.50 and the interest on investments was \$7,145.56. Interest is paid at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum, and the interest credited to depositors during 1927-28 was \$5,089.08.

III.—PRODUCTION.

32. The productive industries of the Colony, in order of importance, are forestry, agriculture and fisheries, no minerals having as yet been discovered in paying quantities. The relative production of these three industries may be gauged by the percentage exports, by value, of each class of produce which in the year under report were as follows :—

Forest produce ...	...	...	...	...	...	89
Agricultural produce ...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Marine produce ...	...	...	...	...	...	1

These figures relate only to produce of domestic origin.

33. The accompanying statement* shows in comprehensive form the exports of the important classes of produce of domestic origin to regular markets during the five calendar years ending with 1927. Minor produce in which there is no constant trade, and occasional shipments to destinations to which regular supply has not been maintained, except in the case of secondary hardwoods and pine, have been excluded from consideration in preparing the statement.

34. The dominance of mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla* King), cedar (*Cedrela mexicana* Roem) and chicle in the category of forest produce, and of coconuts, copra, and bananas in that of agricultural produce, is indicated by the percentage figures, based on exports of 1927, which appear in the last column of the statement.

35. The upward trend of the demand for round mahogany in the American market during the quinquennium is very marked and connotes corresponding development in that section of the saw-milling and veneer industry in the United States which specialises in this wood. A substantial part of the output of that industry finds its way to Europe, and thus the Colony is becoming more and more a source of raw material for a foreign manufacturing industry which depends to an important extent upon the market of the United Kingdom for disposal of its manufactured products. This tendency is regrettable from the standpoint of Empire trade, and means a steady increase in the Colony's economic dependence on the United States: but it is difficult to see a remedy, unless British capital can be induced to interest itself to a greater extent in the extractive and manufacturing branches of the forest industry. There has been during the quinquennium a steady growth in local production of mahogany lumber, but this industry is as yet on too small

* See Appendix, page 22.

a scale to have an appreciable influence on the situation, and its development is somewhat hampered by limited shipping facilities. The market for mahogany logs in the United Kingdom during the five years covered by the statement shows no more than ordinary fluctuations: the general tendency nowadays is for the poorer grades of wood to be displaced in favour of the mahogany lumber manufactured in, and re-exported from, the United States. Towards the end of 1927 a reaction was experienced in the general market for mahogany, which is likely to affect the Colony's trade in 1928: the present indications suggest, however, that the depression will not be prolonged.

36. The trade in cedar is not one capable of much expansion independently of the mahogany trade, as the two species are extracted together and cedar is of more sporadic occurrence than mahogany. It will be observed that the market for cedar in the United Kingdom has steadily declined, while the demand from the United States shows as yet somewhat erratic signs of increase.

37. Future supplies of the above woods depend on extended transport lines and improved methods of extraction, as most of the readily accessible mahogany lands have been seriously depleted of merchantable timber. Large areas of cut-over land bearing stocks of generally immature wood remain however, and the problem of organizing these on a basis of sustained yield has been the chief concern of the Forest Department since its inception.

38. Exports of chicle of domestic origin show no very marked fluctuations during the last five years. The productive capacity of most of the forest areas yielding gum of first quality has been seriously impaired by destructive tapping, and a drop in the output of superior gum is inevitable. Investigation of the possibilities of regulated treatment as a forest crop of the sapodilla tree (*Achras Zapota L.*) from which the gum is derived, and of less destructive methods of bleeding, continues. Fairly large resources of sapodilla yielding an inferior grade of gum remain in the western highlands of the Colony, and it is not impossible that chemical research on the treatment of the latex may result in improvement of the quality sufficiently to enable this gum to compete in the market more successfully than hitherto.

39. Rosewood (*Dalbergia Stevensonii Standl.*) continues to be in market demand on a limited scale in the United States, and of late some interest has been shown from the United Kingdom. Difficulties of extraction militate against any very large increase in the production of this wood.

40. Notwithstanding the competition of synthetic dyes, logwood (*Haematoxylon campechianum L.*), once the most important product of the Colony, is still in limited request as a vegetable colourant, but material increase in the demand is unlikely.

41. Considerable market interest continues to be attached to the secondary hardwoods, of which the most important are Santa Maria (*Calophyllum Calaba Jacq.*), Banak (*Virola merendonis Pittier*), and Yemeri (*Vochysia hondurensis Sprague*), and there is no doubt as to the ultimate extension of trade in these woods when the problem of extraction at reasonable cost has been solved. Technical research on qualities and uses is also needed and is being instituted as far and as rapidly as circumstances permit. Shipments are at present limited to trial consignments.

42. The factor of over-production of yellow pine in the Southern States, aggravated by the competition of soft-woods from the Pacific Coast, has led to disappointment of hopes of early and large expansion of the local pine lumber industry. More efficient saw-milling and better marketing arrangements in the neighbouring republics would, however, in all probability enable the industry to establish itself on a modest basis of output.

43. The out-turn of coconuts, the principal agricultural crop grown in the Colony, has been regular and sustained throughout the past five years, and in 1927 contributed 5 per cent. of the total value of forest, agricultural and marine produce. In 1924 and 1925 there was a falling-off in the making of copra, but this has been recovered during the last two years. Shipments of bananas show a gradual unremitting regression owing to the heavy incidence of Panama disease, which has been responsible for much hardship, impediton, and impoverishment amongst the small planters in the banana districts. Private experiments with selected crossed varieties bred for disease resistance and desirable fruit qualities are in progress, and it is greatly to be hoped that these trials will meet with some success.

44. The distillation of rum has been a fairly regular though minor trade; but the growing of cane for sugar, though it is believed that a living can be made, is not now a profitable investment under contemporary local conditions. This has been due in some measure to the falling-off in demand for the low grades of sugar made in the old-fashioned, low-efficiency estate mills and to the need for the establishment of an economical, centralized, and modern plant. There are considerable tracts of sugar land of good ratooning capacity, and with abundant rainfall and a central factory should prove a profitable undertaking.

45. The foundations of the grape-fruit industry were laid concurrently with the inauguration of the Government Industrial School, on whose property an old neglected grove of grafted grape-fruit trees existed. With the restoration of this grove, and from the excellent orchards of an enthusiastic grower in the Stann Creek Valley, the present citrus industry has been initiated. During 1925, 1926, and 1927 regular shipments have been made, on the whole with very fair success, chiefly to England but also to

Bermuda and Canada. Latterly the counsel and advice of the Empire Marketing Board citrus expert who paid a visit to the Colony early in 1928 has been invaluable for the future guidance of this still youthful industry. The verdict with regard to the grafted fruit of Marsh and Duncan variety has been very satisfactory; and the fruit has been stated to be equal to the best grown in any other country. On the grounds of small production costs, comparatively low landed costs in England, and of good quality budded fruit, moderate and careful expansion of the industry is deemed justifiable; but in view of oncoming over-production and price-declension it has been counselled that the industry confine itself to growing the best grafted varieties only, planting at a cautious rate of from 100 to 150 acres per annum, and growing its own nursery trees for distribution to growers.

46. During 1927, in November, a temporary Agricultural Officer, seconded by the Forest Trust, was appointed pending the arrival of an officer trained and qualified in tropical agriculture. In the first instance, attention devolved mainly upon grape-fruit, but subsequently a commencement has been made of a general reconnaissance of the situation in the important and accessible agricultural areas of the Colony.

47. In the lobster-canning industry considerable advancement has been shown during the years 1925, 1926 and 1927. Lobsters are plentiful and abundant, but the industry is at present somewhat arrested by labour difficulties. Hawksbill tortoise shell has remained normal. The sponge waters are now under the control of a Government scientific expert. Disc cuttings of sponges have been planted with a view to propagation at maturity for the establishment of a Government sponge nursery, and for the re-stocking of the somewhat depleted waters. It is believed that the industry has a very promising future.

IV. TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

48. The gross trade of the Colony amounted to \$9,082,332, as against \$8,994,453 during 1926, an increase of \$87,879.

49. The following table shows the total trade of the Colony for the five years 1923-27 :—

	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Imports ...	4,036,688	3,894,281	4,515,121	5,065,663	4,534,804
Exports ...	3,196,884	3,337,744	3,576,018	3,928,790	4,547,528
Trade ...	7,233,572	7,232,025	8,091,139	8,994,453	9,082,332

50. Trade with the Empire has shown gradual but steady progress since the inception of the Preferential Tariff and the Agreement with the Dominion of Canada in 1921. From the table hereunder, which gives comparative percentages of Empire and foreign trades during the years 1920 and 1927, it will be observed

that the percentage of imports has risen from 17.45 to 30.69, an increase of approximately 75 per cent. It is to be regretted that no similar gain is shown in the exports, and the percentage of increase in the trade is therefore reduced to 36.

	<i>Imports.</i>		<i>Exports.</i>		<i>Trade.</i>	
	1920.	1927.	1920.	1927.	1920.	1927.
United Kingdom and British Possessions.	17.45	30.69	14.88	13.19	16.17	21.94
United States of America.	60.44	46.15	78.18	81.72	69.31	63.94
Other Countries ...	22.11	23.16	6.94	5.09	14.52	14.12

Imports.

51. Imports decreased by \$530,859, the total for 1927 being \$4,534,804 as against \$5,065,663 in 1926. The imports for 1926 were somewhat abnormal, however, and on comparison with 1925 the total for 1927 shows an increase of \$19,683.

52. A comparative statement for the years 1926 and 1927, classified according to groups, is given hereunder :—

<i>Classes.</i>	1926.	1927.	<i>Increase.</i>	<i>Decrease.</i>
	\$	\$	\$	\$
1. Food, drink and tobacco...	1,710,507	1,662,378	—	48,129
2. Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured.	1,077,844	943,969	—	133,875
3. Articles wholly or mainly manufactured.	2,258,626	1,883,460	—	375,166
4. Miscellaneous and unclassified.	18,486	7,269	—	11,217
5. Bullion and specie ...	200	37,728	37,528	—
	<u>\$5,065,663</u>	<u>\$4,534,804</u>	<u>\$37,528</u>	<u>\$568,387</u>

Exports.

53. The value of the exports amounted to \$4,547,528, or \$618,738 more than the total for 1926.

54. The following table shows the value of the export trade for 1927 as compared with that of 1926 :—

	1926.	1927.	<i>Increase.</i>	<i>Decrease.</i>
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Domestic exports ...	1,910,888	2,613,887	702,999	—
Re-exports ...	2,015,302	1,933,641	—	81,661
Bullion and specie ...	2,600	—	—	2,600
	<u>\$3,928,790</u>	<u>\$4,547,528</u>	<u>\$702,999</u>	<u>\$84,261</u>

24,726,313 superficial feet of mahogany were exported during 1927. This figure, on deduction of the 25 per cent. added on all "small end, small way" measurements, is reduced to 20,532,230

superficial feet. The quantity exported in 1926 was 18,745,537 superficial feet and is less than that of 1927 by 5,980,776 superficial feet.

55. The details of the exports, compared with 1926, are as follows :—

	1926. <i>s. ft.</i>	1927. <i>s. ft.</i>	<i>Increase. s. ft.</i>
Domestic produce—			
To United Kingdom	1,513,487	2,411,826	898,339
To United States of America.	13,738,928	18,689,523	4,950,595
	<hr/> 15,252,415	<hr/> 21,101,349	<hr/> 5,848,934
Re-exports—			
To United States of America.	3,493,122	3,624,964	131,842
	<hr/> 18,745,537	<hr/> 24,726,313	<hr/> 5,980,776

56. Cedar exports showed an increase of 440,637 superficial feet over 1926, the total being 733,108 superficial feet.

57. The distribution of the exports during the years 1924-1927 is shown hereunder :—

	1924.	<i>Per cent.</i>	1925.	<i>Per cent.</i>
United Kingdom	259,345	7·77	417,332	11·67
Canada	16,864	·51	35,464	·99
Other British Possessions ...	183,965	5·51	12,638	·36
United States of America ...	2,642,033	79·15	2,812,056	78·64
Other Countries	235,537	7·06	298,528	8·34

	1926.	<i>Per cent.</i>	1927.	<i>Per cent.</i>
United Kingdom	245,502	6·25	357,618	7·86
Canada	206,635	5·26	145,759	3·21
Other British Possessions ...	2,565	·07	96,620	2·12
United States of America ...	3,028,006	81·65	3,716,299	81·72
Other Countries	266,082	6·77	231,232	5·09

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

58. There is frequent communication between the towns and villages along the coast by sailing and motor boats, and by the latter on the rivers. Improved mail and passenger services by motor-vessels were established during 1924, between Belize, Corozal, Orange Walk, and between Belize, Stann Creek, All Pines, Monkey River, and Punta Gorda. These services are subsidized by Government, and mails are carried under contract. The fertile Stann Creek Valley is tapped by a short railway line from the sea coast at Stann Creek to a point 25 miles inland.

59. External communication is provided weekly with New Orleans or Mobile, and monthly from New York and New Orleans (the latter southward-bound only) by the steamers of the United

Fruit Company. There were occasional sailings to New York and New Orleans by vessels of the Munson Line. The Canadian Government Merchant Marine conduct a service between Montreal or Halifax via Bermuda, Bahamas, and Jamaica every three weeks, and the Harrison Line a four-weekly service from Liverpool. The latter sailings are subject to variation in date, and the voyage to Belize covers a period of from five to six weeks, the steamers proceeding from Liverpool to the West Indies, and sometimes to the Spanish Main and Central American ports, making Belize their last port of call. The same line runs an occasional steamer to carry mahogany to London. Mails from London reach Belize via New York and New Orleans or Mobile in about fifteen days. In addition to this route there is good passenger connection between Great Britain and the Colony by the steamers of the Elders and Fyffes Line to Kingston, Jamaica, and thence by steamers of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine to Belize.

60. Communication by sailing vessels with the neighbouring republics is frequent.

Roads.

61. The Colony is urgently in need of good roads. Owing to the low-lying nature of much of the Colony, road construction is difficult and expensive. Satisfactory progress was made in linking up Belize with Corozal in the north by a road which it is hoped will eventually provide "all weather" communication for light traffic.

Telegraphs and Telephones.

62. The postal telegraph system is a Government institution. There are about 925 miles of lines, with 32 offices; the same as in 1926, no extension of the system having been effected during the year.

63. There is one telephone exchange in Belize, with 320 subscribers.

Radio Telegraphs.

64. The installations in use at the Radio Telegraph Station. Belize, consist of (A) 25 kw. Arc Transmitter, type 18; (B) 5 kw. Quenched Spark Transmitter (Wireless Speciality Apparatus). The arc functions on 2,400 and 3,300 metre wave lengths, its average range of operation under good conditions being 2,000 miles. The quenched spark transmitter makes use of 600 metre and 1,500 metre wave lengths; all commercial and Government traffic being handled on the 1,500 metre wave.

65. Ship traffic is dealt with on the 600 metre wave, the hours of watch being given below.

66. The range of the quenched spark transmitter is 1,000 miles on 1,500 metre wave, and 400 on 600 metre wave.

67. In addition to handling every type of public traffic the station transmits special weather reports to Washington daily at 12.00 hours and 23.10 hours G.M.T. from 1st June to 30th November on a 1,500 metre wave length.

68. Public traffic is accepted by the station between the hours of 12.00 and 15.00 G.M.T.

69. Watch on 600 metres is maintained at the following times, G.M.T. :—

13.00	to	14.30 hrs.
15.00	to	15.30 hrs.
15.45	to	16.15 hrs.
17.00	to	19.30 hrs.
21.15	to	21.45 hrs.
23.30	to	01.30 hrs.
02.00	to	04.00 hrs.

Shipping.

70. A summary of the shipping trade, distinguishing between sailing, steam, and motor vessels, and British from foreign nationalities, is shown hereunder. The total tonnage was 679,317, an increase of 43,416, as compared with the previous year.

ENTERED.

<i>Nationality.</i>	<i>Sailing vessels.</i>	<i>Steamships and Motor-boats.</i>	<i>Total tonnage.</i>
British	4,777	109,011	113,788
United States of America ...	—	70,394	70,394
Other	2,489	154,932	157,421
Totals ...	7,266	334,337	341,603

CLEARED.

<i>Nationality.</i>	<i>Sailing vessels.</i>	<i>Steamships and Motor-boats.</i>	<i>Total tonnage.</i>
British	4,860	106,042	110,902
United States of America ...	—	67,575	67,575
Other	2,735	156,502	159,237
Totals ...	7,595	330,119	337,714

71. The total tonnage during the last five years was :—

	<i>Inwards.</i>	<i>Outwards.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1923	267,799	267,132	536,931
1924	295,350	297,252	597,602
1925	315,505	327,658	643,163
1926	316,663	319,238	635,906
1927	341,063	337,714	679,317

72. Two sailing and three motor boats were registered during the year, the total register tonnage of these amounted to nineteen tons.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

73. Justice is administered by the Supreme Court of British Honduras and by the District Commissioners' Courts, subject to appeal to and review by the Supreme Court.

74. During the year, the Supreme Court dealt with 48 civil matters, as against 65 in the preceding year, and heard 11 actions and 2 appeals. No petitions in bankruptcy were presented during the year. The usual Sessions were held at Corozal in March, June, September, and December.

75. Forty-six criminal cases came before the Court, excluding reviews of judgments in the lower Court.

76. The following figures show the convictions for the more serious crimes :—

Murder	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Manslaughter	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Arson	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Forgery	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Perjury	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Housebreaking	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Burglary	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Rape and attempted rape	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Indecent assault	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Grievous harm	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

Of the total number of persons accused of crime, 63 per cent. were convicted.

Police.

77. The strength of the British Honduras Police Force on 31st December, 1927, was 3 officers, 32 non-commissioned officers, and 106 constables.

In addition to their ordinary Police duties, members of the Force, when stationed in the out-districts, act as officers of customs, telephone operators, postal clerks, keepers of prisons, public vaccinators, attesting officers under the labour law, and various other capacities.

The expenditure on the Force during the financial year 1927-28 was \$117,003.63. The cost of Police per man is \$829.81; the cost per head of population is \$2.38.

Prisons.

78. There is one central prison at Belize and there are five local prisons, one in each of the out-districts. During the year, 162 persons were committed to the Belize Prison, one of whom was to serve a sentence of five years or more. The daily population of the Belize Prison averaged 53. Six deaths occurred among the prisoners.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

79. No public work of any magnitude, other than of local interest, was undertaken during the year. The maintenance of Government buildings during the year cost \$14,449.79. The expenditure on roads and bridges totalled \$31,861.15. During the year the expenditure from loan funds on public works totalled \$24,424.87.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

80. The general health of the Colony was good. No cases of quarantinable disease occurred in the Colony during the year.

81. Whooping cough was epidemic during the year and there were 13 deaths from this disease. Influenza was also prevalent and one death was registered in the Belize District. Cancer was responsible for 20 deaths or 3.8 per cent. of the total certified deaths.

82. There has been no increase in the number of cases of malaria treated in the public hospitals; on the contrary there was a decrease. The types of the disease most frequently occurring are the sub-tertian or Aestivo Autumnal and the tertian. There was only one case of blackwater fever; this was in the Orange Walk Hospital and proved fatal.

83. There were 83 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, with 48 deaths. The number of cases of this disease is steadily increasing, the pulmonary form being the most common. Ankylostomiasis is extremely prevalent in the country districts of the Colony. The absence of any pipe-borne water supply in the Colony necessitates the storage of rain-water in vats, tanks, barrels, and other receptacles with consequent breeding of *Stegomyia* mosquitoes. The Sanitary Department, however, maintains an active campaign in mosquito destruction.

The destruction of crabs by means of Cyanogas was continued during the year, with satisfactory results.

Vital Statistics.

84. The population of the Colony at the end of 1927 is estimated at 49,249. In all the Districts there is an excess of births over deaths, and there is an increase in the population of each District. The birth-rate of the Colony is 36.4 per thousand and the death-rate 21.1 per thousand. The infantile mortality rate for the Colony was 137, as compared with 141 in 1926.

IX.—EDUCATION.**Elementary Education.**

85. The system of education is that of subsidized denominational church schools, and is controlled by a Board of Education appointed under the Education Ordinance, 1926 (No. 14 of 1926). Compulsory attendance is enforced in nearly all parts of the Colony. The school officers of compulsory attendance areas are, generally, police constables, and in school areas where there are no constables

the law is not applied. Grants-in-aid from general revenue are based, principally, on the teaching staff of the schools, which are regulated by the average monthly attendance of children between five and sixteen years. Government contribution to the cost of elementary education for the year was \$71,468.98. The cost to Government, based on average attendance, was \$12.71.

The number of aided schools in operation during the year was 73; one hundred and thirty-nine teachers were employed; the average enrolment at all schools was 7,218, of whom 3,757 were boys and 3,461 girls.

Secondary Education.

86. Secondary education continues to be a private undertaking in connection with the religious denominations. In Belize there are six schools, including St. John's College conducted by the Jesuit Fathers, and St. Catherine's Academy conducted by the Sisters of Mercy. These schools receive no aid from the Government except a capitation grant in respect of successful students at the annual Cambridge Local examinations.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

87. During the financial year 1927-28, 163 applications for leases of 3,901 acres of agricultural land and 123 applications for leases of 126 town and village lots were approved and taken up by the lessees. Five hundred and sixty-five acres of agricultural land were sold to 16 applicants for \$2,070.12 and 21 town and village lots were sold to 21 applicants for \$2,873.62. One hundred and twenty-seven acres of agricultural land and 16 town and village lots were granted free. Eighty-four titles for town and village lots and three titles for 81 acres of agricultural land were issued in addition to the lease of the large but unknown area of Turneffe Islands, the coconut-bearing land which has been leased to Capt. R. E. Foote for a rent of \$3,000.00 a year.

88. The trigonometrical survey, which was commenced in 1926-27, was continued. Five main stations were selected, cleared, and beaconed, the check base at Garbutt's Falls was located and cleared, and the positions of the base extension stations were selected and cleared.

89. Surveys to determine the lines of the Belize-Corozal road and the Sibun canal were undertaken, and these works are now in progress.

90. The re-opening of part of the western frontier line, the re-survey of the town of Punta Gorda, and two surveys of large estates were commenced and were in progress at the end of the year.

91. The geological survey of the Colony by Mr. L. H. Ower was completed and a paper on the Colony, together with a valuable geological map, has been published in the Journal of the Royal Geographical Society. Mr. Ower's report on the Geology of British Honduras has been published recently.

XI.—LABOUR.

92. The slump in the mahogany market during 1926 has had its effect on the labour situation this year, and employers have been conservative in the number of men engaged for work during 1927. Regarding chicle operations, there was a slight increase in the number employed.

93. The following table shows the number of men employed under the Labour Ordinance during the hiring season 1927-28 :—

Timber operations	...	...	...	...	...	855
Agricultural	...	...	...	...	...	248
						—
Total	...					1,103
						—

There is no immigration labour.

XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.**Legislation.**

94. Nineteen Ordinances were passed during the year, some of them being amending Ordinances, which call for no special comment.

95. The more important new Ordinances are :—

No. 7—1927.—To regulate the right to search for, mine and work minerals, and for other purposes relating thereto.

No. 9—1927.—To provide for the prevention of corruption.

No. 14—1927.—To make provision for the registration of persons practising Optometry in British Honduras.

No. 19—1927.—To provide for the collection of certain estate duties.

Climate.

96. The climate of British Honduras compares favourably with that of other tropical countries with small European populations. Europeans leading a normal life and taking common precautions will find the climate of British Honduras pleasant and healthy.

97. The highest rainfall registered in 1927 was, as usual, at Punta Gorda in the Toledo District, which had a total of 137.40 inches. The lowest rainfall was at El Cayo in the Cayo District, which had a total of 43.07 inches. The annual rainfall at Belize was 68.61 inches.

98. The absolute extremes of temperature were on 18th August when the thermometer registered 88.0° F. and 11th January when it was at 56.5° F.

E. W. EVANS,
Colonial Secretary.

12th October, 1928.

APPENDIX.

Exports of Produce.

Product.	Destination.	1923.		1924.		1925.		1926.		1927.		Percentage of Value of Produce for 1927.
		Quantity.	Value. \$	Quantity.	Value. \$	Quantity.	Value. \$	Quantity.	Value. \$	Quantity.	Value. \$	
Mahogany Logs. (S. ft.)	United Kingdom	2,174,461	255,423	2,123,375	192,455	3,087,255	362,730	1,513,487	189,186	2,411,826	265,771	—
	U.S.A. ...	4,900,676	491,078	8,872,668	896,263	6,312,979	660,985	13,736,928	1,189,328	18,689,523	1,730,775	—
	Total ...	7,075,137	746,501	10,996,043	1,088,718	9,400,234	1,023,715	15,250,415	1,378,514	21,101,349	1,996,546	76.71
Mahogany Lumber.	United Kingdom	30,192	4,083	45,029	4,052	80,208	9,772	24,613	2,460	232,295	25,854	—
	U.S.A. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,000	160	18,297	1,105	—
	Bahamas ...	—	—	2,097	377	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Bermuda ...	2,554	346	9,201	1,656	106	20	—	—	8,755	1,461	—
	Jamaica ...	5,075	609	5,086	697	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Canada ...	1,000	100	706	141	64,878	11,010	124,106	22,598	67,166	11,740	—
	Total ...	38,821	5,138	62,129	6,923	145,192	20,802	149,719	25,218	326,513	40,160	1.54
Cedar Logs.	United Kingdom	216,477	23,849	89,624	8,494	66,798	6,915	37,642	4,705	42,629	4,577	—
	U.S.A. ...	239,986	23,241	467,429	45,858	214,052	23,148	244,308	20,431	689,210	47,002	—
	Total ...	456,463	47,090	557,053	54,352	280,850	30,063	281,950	25,136	731,839	51,579	1.98
Banak Santa Maria Yomeri	U.S.A. ...	—	—	63,219	1,900	377,920	10,366	355,256	12,434	10,454	143	0.01
	U.S.A. ...	—	—	21,758	650	111,716	2,793	159,103	5,599	540	32	—
	U.S.A. ...	—	—	1,307	40	40,274	1,004	3,451	121	10,082	504	0.02

Other Hard- woods Rosewood (Tons)	U.S.A. ...	—	62	—	1,720	—	130	—	3,662	2,119 248	530 5,362	—	76	—	2,315	—	137	—	2,925	—	0-11
	U.S.A. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	Guatemala	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	30,621	1,558	130,722	186	—	6,165	—	—	—	—	—	
	Honduras...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	88,696	3,816	91,050	—	—	3,968	—	—	—	—	—	
	Mexico ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17,732	1,050	73,072	451	—	3,592	—	—	—	—	—	
Logwood (Tons)	Total ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	137,049	6,424	294,844	—	—	13,725	—	—	—	—	—	
	United Kingdom	665	—	—	17,125	—	675	—	14,560	269	6,725	—	186	—	4,510	—	332	—	8,405	—	
	U.S.A. ...	434	—	—	13,274	—	637	—	19,114	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	France ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	340	8,500	—	451	—	11,271	—	—	—	—	—	
	Total ...	1,099	—	—	30,399	—	1,312	—	33,674	609	15,225	—	637	—	15,781	—	332	—	8,405	0-32	
Chicle (Lb.)	United Kingdom	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	U.S.A. ...	363,174	—	—	155,096	—	306,167	—	139,301	334,892	154,875	233,076	26,770	—	100,560	—	9,738	—	4,382	—	
	Canada ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11,383	—	26,083	—	10,862	—	
	Total ...	363,174	—	—	155,096	—	306,167	—	139,301	334,892	154,875	259,846	—	—	111,943	—	460,175	—	204,618	7-86	
	Forest Pro- duce ...	Total ...	—	—	—	—	985,944	—	—	1,329,220	1,271,149	—	—	—	1,590,756	—	—	—	2,304,912	88-55	
Coconuts (No.)	Canada ...	909,775	—	—	15,468	—	522,950	—	10,777	955,650	21,970	2,180,535	—	—	41,646	—	2,623,955	—	49,370	—	
	U.S.A. ...	5,054,931	—	—	100,663	—	4,564,284	—	111,343	4,786,508	113,926	3,322,025	—	—	67,662	—	3,290,079	—	80,819	—	
	Total ...	5,964,706	—	—	116,131	—	5,087,234	—	122,120	5,742,158	135,896	5,502,560	—	—	109,308	—	5,914,034	—	130,189	5-00	
Copra (Lb.)	United Kingdom	231,553	—	—	11,000	—	339,374	—	16,409	—	—	417,433	—	—	18,810	—	259,683	—	12,984	—	
	U.S.A. ...	1,599,532	—	—	63,981	—	250,923	—	10,791	442,178	19,002	784,248	—	—	39,085	—	1,296,547	—	62,142	—	
	Mexico ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	234,140	9,749	287,540	—	—	11,449	—	136,718	—	4,435	—	
	Total ...	1,831,085	—	—	74,981	—	590,297	—	27,200	676,318	28,751	1,489,221	—	—	69,344	—	1,692,948	—	79,561	3-05	

Exports of Produce.—continued.

Product.	Destination.	1923.		1924.		1925.		1926.		1927.		Percentage of Value of Produce for 1927.
		Quantity.	Value. \$	Quantity.	Value. \$	Quantity.	Value. \$	Quantity.	Value. \$	Quantity.	Value. \$	
Bananas ... (Bunches)	U.S.A. ...	332,500	105,105	265,957	91,006	269,795	99,091	161,281	53,861	112,640	42,619	1.64
Plantains ... (No.)	U.S.A. ...	724,100	8,442	773,500	8,411	1,453,135	16,623	998,400	10,831	210,800	2,266	0.09
Rum (Gallons)	Honduras ...	5,905	6,202	7,005	7,459	1,540	1,540	348	348	5,758	5,987	—
	Nicaragua	2,095	1,738	3,066	3,103	4,256	4,256	5,718	5,738	1,330	1,269	—
	Total ...	8,000	7,940	10,071	10,562	5,796	5,796	6,066	6,086	7,088	7,266	0.28
Grape-fruit (No.)	United Kingdom	—	—	—	—	1,302	62	122,946	4,232	69,998	2,387	—
	Bermuda ...	—	—	—	—	15,278	627	51,272	1,631	58,310	2,589	—
	Canada ...	66,698	1,633	3,738	155	50,503	1,978	144,214	4,896	59,830	2,604	—
	Total ...	66,698	1,633	3,738	155	67,083	2,667	318,432	10,759	188,138	7,580	0.29
Agricultural Produce ...	Total ...	—	314,232	—	259,454	—	288,824	—	260,189	—	269,501	10.35
Lobsters, Canned (Cases)	U.S.A. ...	—	1,660	498	2,718	3,827	19,595	2,249	18,898	2,922	15,952	0.61
Tortoiseshell, Hawksbill (Lb.)	United Kingdom	1,740	10,459	3,061	20,211	2,798	19,361	2,974	16,967	2,984	12,414	0.49
Sponges, Raw (Lb.)	U.S.A. ...	1,509	1,362	896	695	247	193	333	218	—	—	—
Marine Produce ...	Total ...	—	13,481	—	23,624	—	39,149	—	36,063	—	28,368	1.10
All Produce	Total ...	—	3,318,637	—	7,619,938	—	7,599,198	—	6,977,098	—	9,809,779	100.00

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SIERRA LEONE.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1927.

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Geographical and Historical.

An account of the general geographical features of the Colony and Protectorate of Sierra Leone, together with a synopsis of its history, may be found in the Annual General Report for the year 1924.*

A map of the country will be found in the Report for the year 1921.†

I.—GENERAL.

From the financial point of view the year under review was more satisfactory than the previous year, the revenue (exclusive of Railway) showing an increase of £92,724 as compared with 1926. This is principally due to a revival of trade. Agricultural propaganda was carried on extensively throughout the year, special attention being paid, as in the previous year, to cocoa, coconuts, and swamp rice. Towards the end of the year marked progress was made in the development of road construction by the introduction of a number of "pioneer roads" (i.e., more roughly constructed roads suitable for six-wheeled motor lorries) for the

* No. 1275 in the Colonial Reports Annual Series.

† No. 1150 in the Colonial Reports Annual Series.

purpose of feeding the railway with produce, chiefly palm kernels, from areas that had hitherto only been lightly tapped.

On the 16th July, Sir Ransford Slater, K.C.M.G., C.B.E., left the Colony to assume the Governorship of the Gold Coast. From that date until the 23rd September the Government was administered by the Colonial Secretary, Mr. H. C. Luke, C.M.G. On the 31st May, Brigadier-General Sir Joseph A. Byrne, K.B.E., C.B., was appointed Governor and assumed the administration upon his arrival in the country on the 24th September.

PLATINUM.

The discovery by Major N. R. Junner, Director of Geological Survey, of a very promising deposit of platiniferous metal in the alluvial areas of the Colony peninsula was one of great importance in a Colony hitherto regarded as possessing no valuable mineral resources, and has aroused considerable interest in mining circles (*vide* "Geological Survey").

II.—FINANCIAL.

(a) Revenue.

The revenue for the year amounted to the sum of £719,637, as compared with £626,913 in 1926, being more than the original estimate by £44,431.

The following table gives a detailed comparison between the years 1925, 1926, and 1927 :—

	1925.	1926.	1927.
	£	£	£
Customs	539,299	452,675	533,532
Light Dues	12,597	14,516	15,784
Licences and Internal Revenue	16,290	16,205	15,424
House Tax Receipts	60,162	60,669	62,156
Fees of Court	24,464	26,390	33,367
Post Office	13,135	13,215	16,462
Rents	474	569	605
Interest	15,076	18,403	13,864
Miscellaneous	32,167	24,271	28,433
Land Sales	28	—	10
Reimbursement from Loan	—	—	—
Totals	£713,692	£626,913	£719,637

The revenue for the year 1927 shows an increase of £92,724 compared with the revenue of 1926, which is chiefly accounted for by a rise in Customs Receipts of £80,857 and may be ascribed principally to improvement in trade.

(b) Expenditure.

The expenditure for the year amounted to £754,610, compared with £770,784 in 1926, and was less than the original estimate by £83,589.

The following table gives a detailed comparison between the years 1925, 1926, and 1927 :—

	1925.	1926.	1927.
	£	£	£
Charge on account of Public Debt ...	83,018	83,018	14,635
Pensions	40,131	44,427	34,177
Governor and Legislature	6,909	6,905	7,084
Colonial Secretary's Department ...	20,049	19,936	24,436
Provincial Administration	61,079	63,905	66,105
Treasury	8,930	9,009	9,509
Customs Department... ..	21,728	22,419	23,001
Audit	4,460	4,800	5,509
Port and Marine Department	4,265	4,450	5,155
Legal Department	15,295	15,645	16,638
Civil Police	22,741	23,208	23,267
Prisons... ..	13,934	11,705	11,218
Medical Department	51,044	50,384	52,312
Sanitary	17,775	20,289	21,871
Education	30,766	33,817	38,504
Post Office	17,597	17,330	18,115
West African Frontier Force	22,585	39,450	38,206
Railway Department... ..	—	—	17,545
Lands and Forests	7,902	32,236	39,467
Cadastral and Lands Department ...	—	—	7,248
Geological Department	—	—	1,278
Miscellaneous Services	14,389	24,450	13,897
Public Works Department (includes Protectorate Roads).	32,078	38,349	40,877
Public Works Recurrent (includes Protectorate Roads).	20,027	48,882	51,209
Public Works Extraordinary	38,424	62,084	53,848
Freetown Water Works	6,964	—	—
Survey of Freetown	18	—	1,034
Surveys	—	4,504	—
Electric Lighting of Freetown	—	30,229	—
Special Expenditure from Surplus Balances.	—	59,353	62,877
Loan Services... ..	—	—	55,588
Totals	£406,107	£770,784	£754,610

(c) Assets and Liabilities.

The balance of assets at the end of the year amounted to £283,556.

The principal items are :—

	£	£
*Railway Department advance account	49,070	
Public Works Stores	23,609	
		72,679
Surplus Funds (invested)... ..	72,591	
Cash Balance—Treasurer's account	23,832	
Cash held by Crown Agents	124,000	

On the 31st December, 1927, the market value of the securities held in respect of surplus funds invested was £57,425.

* For Railway Accounts, see under XI—Communications.

(d) Public Debt.

The funded debt of the Colony at the end of December, 1927, was £1,729,848, and the sinking fund amounted to £389,153.

(e) Currency.

The Imperial and West African silver coins and West African alloy coins are current and also West African notes of the following values : £1 and 10s.

The stock of the West African alloy coin at the commencement of the year was £65,311, and coin to the value of £81,250 was received from the Banks in respect of remittances or in exchange for currency notes. Coin to the face value of £46,800 was issued for their requirements, and £50,400 was received from the Currency Board. The balance on hand at the end of the year was £150,161.

Silver coin continued to be withdrawn from circulation. On the 1st January £4,305 was held in West African Currency Board stocks and £21,114 was paid in by the Banks during the year. Shipments amounting in the aggregate to £20,000 were made to England, leaving a balance on 31st December of £5,419.

The face value of currency notes in stock on the 1st January was £134,225, and £88,750 was received from the West African Currency Board during the year. Sums representing £205,567 were paid into Currency Board stocks by the Banks in payment of remittances or in exchange for alloy coin, and notes to the face value of £110,200 were issued to the Banks. Old notes to the face value of £276,292 were destroyed, leaving a balance at the close of the year of £42,050.

The face value of notes in circulation as calculated on those issued and redeemed locally was a minus sum of £483,405 11s. 0d. at 31st December, as against a minus sum of £888,038 11s. 0d. at the commencement of the year. This result is the effect of quantities of notes issued in other British West African Colonies being landed here from ships on the homeward voyage, and remittances of currency notes being made from adjacent foreign colonies, much of which reached those colonies from sources other than Sierra Leone. This caused the redemption at this currency centre of large sums in excess of the face value of notes issued.

A sum of £25,882 was received from the West African Currency Board as this Colony's share of the distribution of income of investments during the year under review.

(f) Banking.

There are two Banks—the Bank of British West Africa, and Barclays Bank—both with headquarters in Freetown. The former has a branch at Sherbro and agencies at the more important trade centres in the Protectorate. The Government has accounts at both Banks.

Each Bank has a savings-bank branch which forms an important part of its business and materially affects the transactions of the Government Savings Bank.

III.—TRADE, INDUSTRIES, AND SHIPPING.

(a) Imports.

The total value of imports into the Colony in 1927 was £2,112,024 as compared with £1,844,122 in 1926.

The following tables show the value of the imports for the years 1925, 1926, and 1927 :—

				1925. £	1926. £	1927. £
Commercial Imports	...	...	...	1,686,078	1,358,780	1,588,615
Government Imports	...	...	...	255,236	267,261	292,209
Specie	...	...	...	237,147	218,081	231,200
Totals	...	...	...	£2,178,461	£1,844,122	£2,112,024

				1925. £	1926. £	1927. £
Food, Drink, and Tobacco	...	...	...	427,460	435,461	445,949
Raw materials, and articles mainly unmanufactured.	...	...	...	178,138	118,789	255,793
Articles mainly manufactured	...	...	...	1,329,461	1,069,114	1,177,052
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	6,255	2,639	1,910
Specie	...	...	...	237,147	218,119	231,320
Totals	...	...	...	£2,178,461	£1,844,122	£2,112,024

The revenue derived from imports of spirits was :—

							£
1925	...	...	...	...	...	...	38,251
1926	...	...	...	...	...	...	45,234
1927	...	...	...	...	...	...	45,141

The value of spirits, as compared with the whole import trade, including specie, is shown below :—

			Per cent.				Per cent.
1913	...	...	5·18	1921	...	...	2·18
1914	...	...	3·26	1922	...	...	2·88
1915	...	...	4·47	1923	...	...	1·54
1916	...	...	4·09	1924	...	...	1·10
1917	...	...	3·57	1925	...	...	1·25
1918	...	...	4·27	1926	...	...	1·61
1919	...	...	2·83	1927	...	...	1·42
1920	...	...	2·05				

The commercial imports of coal during the year amounted to 20,082 tons, as against 15,684 tons in 1926.

Imports of coal for the use of the Government amounted to 6,254 tons.

The following table shows the imports for home consumption of cotton piece goods during the years 1913 to 1927 :—

Year.			Quantity,	Value, C.I.F.	Duty	Rate of
			Yards.	£	obtained.	Duty.
				£	£	Per cent.
1913	...	...	16,074,461	267,089	24,837	10
1914	...	...	11,452,302	184,875	17,040	10
1915	...	...	10,742,009	157,229	16,230	10-12½
1916	...	...	10,643,646	206,472	28,569	15
1917	...	...	12,021,562	314,108	41,637	15
1918	...	...	10,595,099	418,305	55,077	15
1919	...	...	5,712,489	289,897	39,676	15
1920	...	...	7,966,545	579,264	80,529	15
1921	...	...	4,526,771	219,566	44,349	15-20-25
1922	...	...	9,222,969	356,408	81,470	25
1923	...	...	10,509,061	393,291	92,396	25
1924*	...	...	7,239,117	308,372	70,050	25†
1925	...	...	10,196,326	430,987	80,401	20
1926	...	...	6,142,212	247,604	45,771	20
1927	...	...	9,376,122	317,934	58,265	20

* Up to and including 1923 the quantity is shown in linear yards ; the 1924 to 1927 figures represent square yards.

† Until 27th November, 1924, when it was reduced to 20 per cent.

OTHER COTTON GOODS.

Year.			Value, C.I.F.	Duty obtained.	Rate of Duty.
			£	£	Per cent.
1913	...	...	158,196	14,510	10
1914	...	...	116,533	10,771	10
1915	...	...	116,460	11,886	10-12½
1916	...	...	136,970	18,617	15
1917	...	...	131,597	17,600	15
1918	...	...	167,783	21,869	15
1919	...	...	173,934	23,830	15
1920	...	...	296,587	41,294	15
1921	...	...	135,070	27,262	15-20-25
1922	...	...	56,348	12,696	25
1923	...	...	86,520	20,108	25
1924	...	...	95,607	21,290	25*
1925	...	...	114,350	21,675	20
1926	...	...	95,519	17,155	20
1927	...	...	127,114	22,851	20

* Duty reduced to 20 per cent. on the 27th November, 1924.

(b) Exports.

The total value of exports from the Colony amounted to £1,767,259 compared with £1,731,252 in 1913 and £1,871,446 in 1926. Exports are valued as they lie on board the exporting vessel; such value includes export duty, cost of packages, and all charges incidental to shipment.

The following is a comparative table :—

	1925. £	1926. £	1927. £
Produce and manufactures of the Colony.	1,627,916	1,562,525	1,527,077
Coal	66,211	40,485	36,831
Other British and Foreign manufactures.	94,045	110,636	153,151
Specie	32,463	157,800	50,200
Totals	£1,820,635	£1,871,446	£1,767,259

The following is a comparative statement of the principal exports during the last three years :—

	1925.	1926.	1927.
Benniseed (tons)	62	19	141
Cocoa, raw (tons)	50	41	77
Ginger (cwt.)	49,260	55,265	27,354
Hides (cwt.)	170	337	141
Kola nuts (tons)	2,442	3,015	4,461
Palm kernels (tons)	63,231	65,000	65,436
Palm oil (tons)	2,988	2,865	3,609
Pepper (tons)	18	20	32
Piassava (tons)	2,166	2,083	2,418
Rice (bushels)	572	2,051	10,525

The "balance of trade" figures for the last five years are given in the following table :—

Year.	Total Imports, less Specie. £	Re-exports, less Specie. £	Net Imports. £	Exports of the Produce and Manufactures of the Colony. £	Excess of Net Imports over Domestic Exports. £	Excess of Domestic Exports over Net Imports. £
1923 ...	1,660,144	200,690	1,459,454	1,347,115	112,339	—
1924 ...	1,635,597	160,382	1,475,575	1,510,353	—	34,778
1925 ...	1,941,314	160,256	1,781,058	1,627,916	153,142	—
1926 ...	1,626,041	151,121	1,474,920	1,562,525	—	87,605
1927 ...	1,880,824	189,982	1,690,842	1,527,077	163,765	—

Kola nuts.—Shipments amounted to 9,993,030 lb. or 4,461 tons, valued at £268,915, as compared with 6,753,766 lb. or 3,015 tons, valued at £246,725, in 1926.

Nigeria is still the largest purchaser, taking 44 per cent., French Senegal 28 per cent. and Gambia 26 per cent.

The following table shows the exports of kolas to the three principal countries during the last five years :—

	1923. lb.	1924. lb.	1925. lb.	1926. lb.	1927. lb.
Nigeria	1,359,643	1,767,200	2,172,633	2,443,551	4,430,682
Gambia	2,531,718	1,785,875	1,371,418	2,058,588	2,602,861
Senegal	1,557,544	1,893,604	1,764,270	2,071,130	2,758,271

The figures in the above table show clearly the steady development of this trade with Nigeria.

Palm Kernels.—The quantity of palm kernels exported during the year amounted to 65,436 tons, which is the largest quantity shipped in any year from the Colony, being an increase of 436 tons over the figure for the preceding year. The value, including duty, amounted to £1,077,450, being £39,330 less than in 1926. The fall in value was due to lower prices in the European market which averaged only £19 17s. 0d. per ton as compared with £20 6s. 0d. in 1926. The development in exports was not affected by the increase of 10s. per ton in the export duty from 1st September, 1927. The United Kingdom took only 27,664 tons, or 42·3 per cent., as compared with 36,487 tons, or 56·1 per cent., in 1926, whilst Germany increased her purchases from 28,111 tons in 1926 to 37,314 tons in 1927 which amounts to 57 per cent. of the total export. This large increase was due to the fact that higher prices were offered in the Hamburg market than in the United Kingdom.

Exports of palm kernels since 1913 :—

	<i>Tons.</i>		<i>Tons.</i>
1913 ...	49,201	1921 ...	40,409
1914 ...	35,915	1922 ...	49,029
1915 ...	39,624	1923 ...	59,545
1916 ...	45,316	1924 ...	61,117
1917 ...	58,020	1925 ...	63,231
1918 ...	40,816	1926 ...	65,000
1919 ...	50,622	1927 ...	65,436
1920 ...	50,425		

Palm Oil.—The total export of palm oil amounted to 3,609 tons, valued at £98,179, as against 2,865 tons, valued at £89,032, being an increase of 844 tons over shipments recorded in 1926. As with kernels, shipments were greater than in any other year.

The following table gives the average prices of palm kernels and palm oil in the European market during the last twenty years :—

PALM KERNELS.

<i>Per ton.</i>		<i>Per ton.</i>	
£		£	
1908 ...	13·00	1918 ...	26·00
1909 ...	14·00	1919 ...	35·50
1910 ...	18·00	1920 ...	38·00
1911 ...	18·00	1921 ...	20·00
1912 ...	19·00	1922 ...	17·50
1913 ...	22·00	1923 ...	18·75
1914 ...	19·00	1924 ...	21·00
1915 ...	16·00	1925 ...	21·50
1916 ...	22·00	1926 ...	20·25
1917 ...	25·00	1927 ...	19·85

PALM OIL.

		<i>Per ton.</i> £			<i>Per ton.</i> £
1908	...	22·00	1918	...	49·00
1909	...	22·00	1919	...	70·00
1910	...	31·00	1920	...	64·00
1911	...	30·00	1921	...	33·66
1912	...	27·00	1922	...	35·66
1913	...	30·00	1923	...	35·75
1914	...	29·00	1924	...	39·83
1915	...	30·00	1925	...	40·50
1916	...	36·00	1926	...	37·75
1917	...	44·00	1927	...	33·80

Ginger.—Exports of ginger amounted to 27,354 cwt., valued at £25,981, as compared with 55,265 cwt., valued at £72,019, in 1926. When it is remembered that the 1926 figures indicated great depression in this trade the figures for 1927 are sufficiently eloquent.

15,607 cwt., valued at £14,930, were shipped to the United Kingdom; 6,801 cwt., valued at £6,301, to the United States of America; 1,345 cwt., valued at £1,402, to Canada; 1,309 cwt., valued at £1,304, to Germany; and 1,329 cwt., valued at £1,156, to France.

(c) Direction of Trade.

Of the total import trade £1,296,475, or 61·38 per cent., came from the United Kingdom, as compared with 60·88 per cent. in 1926. £242,332, or 11·47 per cent., was with the United States of America, as compared with 11·02 in 1926; foreign West African possessions sent £101,119 or 4·79 per cent.

Of the export trade £603,748, or 34·16 per cent., went to the United Kingdom; £650,614, or 36·81 per cent., to Germany; £228,912, or 12·95 per cent., to British West African possessions; and £33,071, or 1·87 per cent., to the United States of America.

(d) Shipping.

The persistent increase in shipping tonnage during the last few years has been remarkable. The tonnage of vessels entering and clearing has doubled since 1921 and has developed steadily without any of the set-backs which have occasionally befallen the general trade of the Colony.

Although her percentage proportion of total was again reduced, the United Kingdom still predominates with 66·01 per cent., and there was an actual increase in tonnage over the figures for 1926 of 121,295.

Holland retained second place and increased her percentage to 10·12 per cent. Germany ranked third with 7·33 per cent.; the United States of America following with 6·55 per cent.

French vessels contributed 5.74 per cent. to the total tonnage entered, Italy's share amounting to 3.19 per cent. The French vessels trade with Marseilles, while the American vessels maintain a regular service between New York and various West African ports.

The following comparative statement shows the number and tonnage of vessels entered from and cleared to foreign ports in the years 1926 and 1927 :—

Vessels Entered.

<i>Ports.</i>	<i>1926.</i>		<i>1927.</i>		<i>Increase.</i>		<i>Decrease.</i>	
	<i>No.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Freetown ...	729	2,004,270	801	2,228,806	72	224,536	—	—
Sherbro ...	2	3,209	6	17,583	4	14,380	—	—
Mano Salija ...	50	13,211	18	17,796	—	4,585	32	—
Sulima... ..	4	5,997	1	1,927	—	—	3	4,070
Totals ...	785	2,026,687	826	2,266,118	41	239,431	—	—

Vessels Cleared.

<i>Ports.</i>	<i>1926.</i>		<i>1927.</i>		<i>Increase.</i>		<i>Decrease.</i>	
	<i>No.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Freetown ...	719	1,993,338	776	2,182,530	57	189,192	—	—
Sherbro ...	5	9,640	24	55,267	19	45,627	—	—
Mano Salija ...	51	18,376	21	22,247	—	3,871	30	—
Sulima ...	6	10,018	2	2,876	—	—	4	7,142
Totals ...	781	2,031,372	823	2,262,920	42	231,548	—	—

IV.—LEGISLATION.

Thirty-nine Ordinances were enacted during the year 1927. Of these twenty-nine either amended or repealed existing measures, two dealt with supply, and the eight remaining Ordinances related to subjects which had not hitherto formed the subject of legislation.

The following were the most important of these latter enactments :—

(1) *The Survey Ordinance* provides for the licensing of qualified surveyors and the recording and co-ordination of their work and generally for the proper carrying out of all surveys in the Colony and Protectorate.

(2) *The Arbitration Ordinance* which is based on the English Arbitration Act has been enacted for the purpose of settling disputes by arbitration and supplies a legislative deficiency which has been existing for some considerable time.

(3) *The Minerals Ordinance* was enacted in view of the inadequate legal provisions relating to minerals which were in force under the Concessions Ordinance. The Ordinance provides legislation on the lines of similar legislation in force in other parts of the Empire on this subject, and reserves royalties to the Crown in respect of all minerals obtained.

(4) *The Domestic Loans Ordinance* provides for the raising of a loan for certain public works and other undertakings.

As regards amending legislation, the principal measures enacted are as follows :—

(1) *The Protectorate Land Ordinance*.—This Ordinance was enacted in order to simplify the law relating to the tenure of land by non-natives in the Protectorate and repeals the vague and unsatisfactory legislation which was previously in force.

(2) *The Protectorate Courts Jurisdiction (Amendment) (No. 2) Ordinance*.—This Ordinance was enacted in order to facilitate and improve the administration of justice in the Courts of the District Commissioners by incorporating in the principal Ordinance various provisions relating to procedure from the Magistrates Courts Ordinance. The jurisdiction of the Protectorate Magistrate has also been extended to certain offences which were previously only punishable on summary conviction in the Colony.

(3) *The Freetown Municipality Ordinance* repeals the existing enactment providing for the management of the affairs of the city of Freetown and replaces the former City Council by an entirely new Council. Many of the powers and duties conferred by this Ordinance are similar however to those exercised and discharged by the former administration.

(4) *The Legal Status of Slavery (Abolition) Ordinance* finally precludes any Court from recognising the status of slavery in any form.

Fifty-two subordinate legislative measures were also brought into operation during the year.

V.—LANDS AND FORESTS.

The various divisions of the Lands and Forests Department have pursued and developed the various schemes outlined in the 1926 Report.

The Division of Agriculture has continued experimental work at Njala on problems connected with fertilisers and rotations. Investigations into the yielding capacity of various types of oil palm are being conducted and selection work continued on local varieties of cotton, while a selected stock of citrus fruits has been obtained for the purposes of future propagation. The new Agricultural College at Njala has not yet been completed and the apprentices are still occupying temporary buildings.

Coconut planting has been pushed ahead in the Southern Province and over 159,000 seedlings have been planted out in various small native-owned plantations. Cocoa planting has been encouraged in suitable localities and during 1927 some 77 tons of cocoa were exported. The cultivation of coffee and castor beans has also been extended.

Owing to the slump in the ginger market only half the ginger crop was disposed of. The rice crops were generally good and the

further cultivation of swamp rice is being encouraged. Oil palm demonstration plots are being extended and data from established plots are being kept.

The activities of the Division of Forests have again been hampered by shortage of staff, due to leave and other causes, and only a small amount of new reservation work has been done. The Malal West Reserve (1.31 square miles) was demarcated and constituted, and the demarcations of the Gola North and Gori Hills proposed reserves were continued. Preliminary surveys of the Mamba and Kissi Mountains and the Singamba Ridge were carried out. Some 10,000 seedlings of local species were planted out experimentally and a beginning was made in experiments in regeneration with the aid of rice farmers.

Work, other than forestry, was carried out by the Forestry Division. A beginning was made in the establishing of a 2,000 acre oil palm plantation at Mabang; 300 acres were planted and extensive nursery preparations were made. The tapping of the Kenema rubber plantation was carried on with satisfactory results. A forest officer spent some time examining possible sites for fruit farms in the Colony, and also visited French Guinea and submitted an informative report.

The Division of Research continued its programme. The chemical section devoted the major part of its time to a study of Sierra Leone soils. The soils of the Colony are chiefly laterites or lateritic soils and very little is known about the relation between the chemical properties of these soils and their agricultural possibilities. The object of the research work is therefore to discover these relationships with a view to applying the knowledge to agricultural problems. A paper dealing with the composition of laterite and lateritic soils in Sierra Leone was published in the "Journal of Agricultural Science" during 1927. Soil survey work has continued, and up to the present time some 1,500 samples of soil from all parts of the country have been examined; it is hoped that a soil survey of the Colony and Protectorate will be published during 1928.

During the year the survey of the piassava industry was made, native methods were investigated and recommendations were made for the improvement of the fibre by means of better methods of preparation. A pamphlet on the piassava industry was prepared and is now in the hands of the printers.

Working in collaboration with the mycological section, the chemical section has been investigating the productivity in oil and kernels of the oil palm plantations at Njala. The chief results obtained are those from a plantation grown from good quality fruit imported from Nigeria, and the results from the seven year old plantation show that yields of oil compare very favourably with the data given for Sumatra by Messrs. Auchinleck and Waters at the West African Agricultural Conference.

In addition to work connected with oil palms the mycological section has been engaged on a study of fungus diseases affecting vegetable and garden plants. Many specimens of fungi were sent to England and determinations of most have been received. Further, about 500 herbarium specimens were collected during the year and most of these have been identified. Particular attention has been given to grasses and sedges.

The Entomologist has pursued his investigations on crop pests. The position with regard to coconut scale has improved, while ginger scale has been studied and a remedy discovered. Work on kola pests, locusts, termites and nematodes is in progress and instructions were given to agricultural apprentices and others in the use of insecticides.

Approval has been obtained for an increase of the staff of the Division of Inspection by the appointment of an Assistant Inspector and of six Sub-Inspectors. The work of this Division has resulted in a noticeable increase in the quality of the produce exported.

VI.—EDUCATION.

Provision for all grades of education shows steady growth in both Colony and Protectorate.

The following table gives figures of all primary schools which are either conducted, or assisted, by Government :—

<i>Schools.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Number on Roll.</i>	<i>Average Attendance.</i>
Government	14	1,372	1,082
Church of England	34	3,360	2,294
Wesleyan Methodist	28	2,866	2,050
Roman Catholic	14	2,076	1,540
United Brethren-in-Christ	16	1,151	877
United Methodist	8	693	480
Mohammedan	5	695	492
Countess of Huntingdon	3	90	82
United Brethren-in-Africa	1	68	53
American Methodist Episcopal	2	224	176
American Wesleyan	2	90	82
Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.	1	67	44
Amalgamated	5	434	316
Totals	133	13,186	9,568

(a) Colony.

Government Educational institutions in the Colony at the end of the year comprised :—

Secondary :—

Prince of Wales's School with 78 boys, two European Masters, and a fine laboratory. Science is given special attention.

Primary:—

Freetown Model School : 208 boys and 55 girls.

Rural:—

Wilberforce, with 87 boys and 86 girls.

Waterloo, with 133 boys and 95 girls.

Benguma, with 47 boys and 41 girls.

Government-aided institutions were :—

Secondary:—

<i>School.</i>		<i>Controlling Authority.</i>	<i>Primary and Preparatory Classes.</i>	<i>Secondary Classes.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
<i>Boys.</i>					
*C.M.S. Grammar School	...	C.E.	40	173	213
*Wesleyan Boys' High School	...	Wes.	10	148	158
Albert Academy	...	U.B.C.	39	59	98
St. Edward's	...	R.C.	15	35	50
A.M.E. Seminary	...	A.M.E.	44	41	85
<i>Girls.</i>					
Annie Walsh Memorial	...	C.E.	122	92	214
St. Joseph's	...	R.C.	120	142	262
Girls' High School	...	Wes.	52	16	68
Freetown Girls' Secondary	...	Private.	95	20	115
Girls' Institute	...	A.M.E.	30	48	78
*Girls' Vocational	...	Private.	23	15	38
*Mrs. Reuben Johnson's	...	do.	36	24	60
*Mrs. Leigh's Girls' School	...	do.	35	20	55
Totals	...	...	661	833	1,494

* Non-aided.

Primary:—

56 schools, with 4,536 boys and 3,153 girls.

In the Cambridge Local Examinations 18 entered for the Preliminary, and 8 passed; 47 entered for the Junior and 27 passed; 22 entered for the School Certificate and 9 passed.

TRADE SCHOOLS.

In the Colony there are three schools undertaking trade preparation work :—

Albert Academy, taking carpentry and printing;

Church of England Technical School, taking carpentry and theoretical building construction, with 25 pupils;

Sir Alfred Jones (Government) Trades School, taking carpentry, with 16 pupils.

The A.M.E. Mission conducts a vocational school for girls where cooking and laundering is taught to 78 pupils.

Fourah Bay College.

Fourah Bay College, which is affiliated to the University of Durham, prepares students for the Pass Degrees of Durham University. The Staff consists of a European Principal, four African Tutors, and two European ladies who give occasional lectures. The number of students for the year was 18, of whom 12 were in residence.

Provision has been made for the training of male teachers for the primary schools in the Colony. A Normal Master has been appointed and Government is making special grants to assist the Council in their endeavours to bring the curriculum more into line with the requirements of local conditions.

Provision has also been made to train female teachers at the Wesleyan Girls' High School. The accommodation is very limited but the Mission Authorities are about to erect a new building at their own expense costing approximately £2,000. The Government provide funds for the payment of three European Mistresses.

(b) Protectorate.

Government had 10 schools but in the latter part of the year it was decided to close the school at Gbamgbama owing to the adverse reports received from the District Commissioner.

The numbers on roll were as follows :—

1. Bo School, for sons and nominees of Chiefs	...	159
2. Njala Agricultural College	... ..	130
3. Bumpe, Primary School, under Bo	... ..	65
4. Baima, Primary School, under Bo	... ..	35
5. Gambia, Primary School, Vernacular	... ..	16
6. Pendembu, Primary School	... ..	45
7. Ngiema, Primary School	... ..	44
8. Gbamgbama, Primary School	... ..	30
9. Jimmi, Primary School	... ..	71
10. Zimmi, Primary School	... ..	25

Of these the former as a boarding school sets a high standard of all-round preparation for better citizenship in the Protectorate, and continues to turn out useful men for the duties of their Chiefdoms and other official and private occupations. Five of the pupils are now Paramount Chiefs, and 91 are in employment under the Government of the Colony.

Njala Agricultural School, also boarding, continues to give a sensible training for youths in the Protectorate, the pick of whom are appointed to positions as teachers in the rural schools, but owing to the congested state of the grounds it may be found necessary to remove this school to a more favourable and central position in the near future.

Reports of the other Government schools are satisfactory.

67 Mission schools (primary, secondary, and industrial), with 3,279 boys and 1,254 girls, are receiving assistance from the Government. There are also 74 unassisted schools, mostly small and often but poorly staffed.

Government Residential School for sons of Chiefs at Bo.—The number of boys on roll at the end of the year was 159; the number of new pupils admitted during the year was 26, which is a record.

The distribution of pupils from each Province is as follows:—

Central Province	...	...	...	...	69
Northern Province	...	...	...	...	68
Southern Province	...	...	...	...	22
					<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	...	159
					<hr/>

Nine pupils left to enter Government service as follows:—

- Three, School of Survey;
- Two, Inspection Division of the Lands and Forests Department;
- Two, Medical Department;
- One, Agricultural Division of the Lands and Forests Department;
- One, Interpreter, Provincial Administration.

VII.—GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS.

(a) Hospitals and Asylums.

The numbers of cases treated at the European Hospital at Hill Station show a steady increase.

						Total admissions.	Government officials.
1925	...	...	...	...	...	111	37
1926	...	...	...	...	...	125	45
1927	...	...	...	...	...	136	51

The Connaught Hospital is now too small for the demands upon it, and a new ward-block has been approved for erection in 1928. The appointment of a Surgical Specialist to this hospital has caused a great increase in the number of patients applying for operative treatment. The figures for the past three years are as follows:—

						Admissions.	Maternity Section.
1925	...	...	...	...	...	1,860	263
1926	...	...	...	...	...	1,867	251
1927	...	...	...	...	...	2,046	301

The new out-patient block was not ready for occupation by the close of the year, as expected, but will be open early in 1928. The temporary out-patient department dealt with 14,780 new cases

and 49,560 total attendances during the year, as against 13,834 and 46,010, respectively, in 1926.

Lunatic Asylum, Kissy.

During the year, 55 patients were admitted and 10 died, the total number treated during the year being 145.

The Kissy infirmaries admitted 161 patients during the year; 235 cases in all were treated, and there were 51 deaths.

The Sherbro Hospital, Bonthe, with five wards totalling 40 beds, of which one ward of two beds is reserved for Europeans, had a total admission of 464 cases, with 16 deaths. The out-patient department dealt with 4,078 new cases, the total attendances numbering 19,112.

(b) Post Office Savings Bank.

The deposits numbered 11,436, of the value of £25,831 12s. 1d. as compared with 10,745 value £24,362 18s. 5d. in 1926.

Withdrawals totalled 6,134 and amounted to £25,365 13s. 4d. as against 6,044 value £26,348 12s. 4d. the previous year.

The average value of each deposit was £2 5s. 2d., and of each withdrawal £1 2s. 8d., compared with £2 5s. 4d. and £4 7s. 2d., respectively, in 1926.

During the year 1,756 accounts were opened and 1,165 were closed, and the corresponding figures for 1926 were 1,692 and 1,099.

At the end of the year there were 6,410 depositors on the books and the amount to their credit was £64,030 2s. 3½d. (an increase of 591 accounts and £1,901 4s. 2d. for the year), and the average value of each account was £9 19s. 9d.

The total sum invested was £61,697 18s. 18d.

The dividends received on investments amounted to £2,348 4s. 3d. and the interest capitalised and credited to depositors was £1,435 5s. 5d.

(c) Port and Marine.

During the year the lighthouses, buoys, and beacons were maintained in an efficient condition. A new buoy was laid in place of No. 7 buoy, Sherbro River, the old buoy being found unfit for further service and condemned.

There was a marked increase in Sherbro shipping over previous years and the revenue from pilotage receipts for the year amounted to £1,463 10s. 0d. A serious mishap occurred to the s.s. "Burutu" in the Sherbro River. This vessel stranded near Buoy Point whilst proceeding up the river without a pilot.

The signal station at the Cape Lighthouse worked successfully and has proved to be a big improvement over the old look-out-station on Signal Hill.

VIII.--JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(a) Police.

The Police Force is employed in the Colony only, similar work in the Protectorate being performed by Court Messengers under the control of Provincial Commissioners.

At the end of 1927, the Force consisted of a Commissioner, an Assistant Commissioner, four Inspectors, three African Sub-Inspectors, and 307 Non-Commissioned Officers and men.

The health of the Force has slightly improved; 32 fewer reported sick than the previous year, seven less were admitted into hospital, and 25 fewer were ordered "duty and treatment."

A good standard of discipline was maintained during the year. It is no uncommon thing now for Constables to report attempts made to bribe them, which formerly was practically unknown.

The following table shows the number of cases reported, arrests made, number of convictions and the percentage of convictions to arrests for the last three years:—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Cases reported.</i>	<i>Arrests made.</i>	<i>Convictions.</i>	<i>Percentage.</i>
1925 ...	2,476	2,336	1,783	76.32
1926 ...	1,887	2,346	1,657	70.6
1927 ...	2,209	2,259	1,815	80.3

The following is a comparative statement of serious crimes reported during the past two years:—

	1926.	1927.
Murder ...	1	Nil.
Manslaughter ...	Nil.	3
Housebreaking ...	18	2
Burglary ...	15	2
Shopbreaking ...	12	4
Larceny ...	651	331
Receiving ...	53	25

(b) Fire Brigade.

The Commissioner of Police took over the superintendency of the Fire Brigade on the 1st of March, since when it has shown steady improvement in appearance, equipment, and efficiency and now performs its duties in a creditable manner.

(c) Prisons.

The number of persons committed to Freetown Prison during the years 1926 and 1927 was as follows:—

	1926.	1927.
Males ...	1,135	850
Females ...	9	14
Juveniles ...	5	3

The daily average number in custody during the same period was:—

	1926.	1927.
Males ...	298	295
Females ...	4	3

The general health of the prisoners was very good and the prison hospital was closed for several long periods. There was no epidemic.

The number of persons committed to the Protectorate prisons during the years 1926 and 1927 was :—

1926.	1927.
849	696

The daily average number in custody during the same period was :—

1926.	1927.
156	138

IX.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(a) European Population.

The number of European residents during 1927 in the Colony and Protectorate was :—

Officials	300
Non-officials*	500
Military	193

* This figure includes white Americans.

The average number of officials resident at any one time during the year was 250, as compared with 184 in 1926. The following is a comparative tabulation of the deaths, from climatic and non-climatic causes, of Europeans in the Colony and Protectorate since 1912 :—

Year.	Landed from Vessels.		Non-Military.		Military.		Total.
	Climatic.	Non-Climatic.	Climatic.	Non-Climatic.	Climatic.	Non-Climatic.	
1912 ...	—	—	3	3	3	2	11
1913 ...	—	—	4	1	3	2	10
1914 ...	—	—	4	1	3	—	8
1915 ...	1	1	7	3	2	—	14
1916 ...	3	3	2	1	3	4	16
1917 ...	—	12	4	2	1	3	22
1918* ...	—	46	—	6	3	7	62
1919 ...	3	3	4	6	2	—	18
1920 ...	—	2	5	3	—	—	10
1921 ...	—	1	5	3	—	—	9
1922 ...	1	1	5	4	1	1	13
1923† ...	—	—	4	1	2	—	7
1924 ...	1	—	3	2	2	—	8
1925 ...	1	1	3	2	—	1	8
1926‡ ...	2	2	1	6	1	—	12
1927 ...	3	1	4	2	—	1	11

* Influenza epidemic.

† (1923) In addition two Europeans died on board ships in Freetown Harbour: one from a climatic, the other from a non-climatic cause.

‡ (1926) In addition one European died on board ship at Bonthe Harbour from a climatic cause.

(b) Population, Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality.

	<i>Population, 1921 Census.</i>	<i>Birth-rate per 1,000.</i>	<i>Death-rate per 1,000.</i>	<i>Infantile Mortality per 1,000 births.</i>
Freetown	44,142	22·8	29·2	351·4
Colony, other than Freetown...	41,021	20·7	19	210·3

Owing to non-registration of many births, the "available" birth-rate is undoubtedly much below the actual birth-rate, and for this reason the infantile mortality rate, which is the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 registered births, appears a good deal higher than it actually is. It is, nevertheless, excessively high, and with a view to reducing it "Infant Welfare" work is being undertaken on an increasing scale. According to the 1921 Census, the males exceeded the females by 28·5 per cent. and 24·3 per cent. in Freetown and the rest of the Colony respectively. This is an additional factor in producing the low birth-rate.

(c) Sanitation.

The port of Freetown was never in quarantine during the year. Owing to the prevalence of yellow fever and plague in several West African Colonies, both to the northward and southward of Sierra Leone, port health work was exceptionally heavy. Passengers arriving from infected ports were kept under strict surveillance and, where necessary, their baggage was disinfected. One case of smallpox was landed in Freetown from a steamer from Nigeria.

There were minor outbreaks of smallpox in the Kono and Makeni districts of the Protectorate.

Pneumonia and bronchitis have an appreciable effect on the death-rate, especially in the early months of the year when the dry north-east wind (Harmattan) prevails. The Superintendent of Freetown Waterworks reports that there was no shortage of water during the year. The total consumption for all purposes was 158,000,000 gallons, including upwards of 5,000,000 gallons supplied to shipping.

(d) Record of Vaccinations performed.

	<i>1924.</i>	<i>1925.</i>	<i>1926.</i>	<i>1927.</i>
Number vaccinated	9,636	10,367	13,669	13,389
" successful	4,925	4,806	7,491	8,109
" unsuccessful	2,052	3,226	3,873	2,716
" not inspected	2,659	2,335	2,305	2,564

(e) Climate.

The climate of Sierra Leone is tropical, with a heavy rainfall and high atmospheric humidity during the greater part of the year. The shade temperature rarely falls below 70 degrees. On the other hand, the shade temperature, even in the dry season, rarely rises above 95 degrees, and there is always a sufficient daily range of

temperature to render the mornings and evenings relatively cool. There are four months of very dry weather, when little or no rain falls, and four months of varying conditions, with a moderate rainfall for a tropical country.

There is a single rainy season lasting roughly from May to the end of October. This occurs during the period of the south-west monsoon. It is preceded and followed by a period of thunderstorms, known as tornadoes, which travel in a direction from east to west. In August there is sometimes a slight break in the rains.

July, August, and September are the months of the heaviest rainfall.

The rainfall is highest on the coast, decreasing gradually inland.

Rainfall records taken in Freetown (Tower Hill), 180 feet above sea-level, for the past 40 years are available, and the following for each of the last four decennia shows very markedly the decrease in the rainfall, which is said to be common to the whole of West Africa and the neighbouring islands :—

AVERAGE RAINFALL, FREETOWN (TOWER HILL).

<i>Period.</i>							<i>Average Rainfall.</i>
							<i>Inches.</i>
1882-1891	...	...	...	...	...	...	166·07
1892-1901	...	...	...	...	...	...	165·15
1902-1911	...	...	...	...	...	...	156·00
1912-1921	...	...	...	...	...	...	122·66

The highest rainfall recorded was 204·19 inches in 1883, and the lowest 102·34 inches in 1914.

In December and January Sierra Leone comes into the region of the north-east "Trades," and the resultant wind, known as the "Harmattan," blows from N.N.E. It is an exceedingly dry wind, and is accompanied by a thick haze, probably composed of minute particles of dust. During this period there are cool nights and hot days, and the maximum diurnal variations are registered. The lowest mean temperatures are usually recorded in the months of July and August.

The rainfall in Freetown in 1927 was 135·12 inches; this is below the average for the past 40 years (152·47 inches).

The highest rainfall recorded in any one day was 8·96 inches on 12th July. The lowest temperature recorded at the Tower Hill Observatory was 66 degrees on 30th January; the highest, 95 degrees on 11th February.

(f) Conditions of living in Sierra Leone.

There are facilities for playing cricket, football, tennis and golf. As the country is hilly cycling is laborious, and horses do not thrive; for some distance out from the town the roads are good enough for motor-cars and motor-cycles to be used.

Local meat is by no means as good as English meat, but when properly cooked it is quite nutritious. Excellent fresh fish can be bought, and, apart from potatoes and onions, which are imported, fresh vegetables and fresh fruit can be obtained at reasonable prices throughout the year.

A cold-storage plant, from which fresh meat and fish, game, etc., can be procured, has been started by one of the European firms in Freetown.

(g) Population (Colony and Protectorate).

A Census of the Colony and Protectorate was taken on the 24th November, 1921, and it was published in 1922.

The report shows that the population of Sierra Leone (Colony and Protectorate) had increased from 1,403,132 in 1911 to 1,541,311 in 1921, or by approximately 9·8 per cent. The Census of 1901 recorded a population of 1,024,178 only, so that the increase in the decade 1902-11 was apparently 37 per cent.; but the apparent great increase in population during the decade 1902-11 cannot necessarily be attributed to actual increase in numbers, but is more probably due to inaccurate estimates made in 1901.

The population of the Colony proper shows a very considerable increase, viz., from 75,572 to 85,163. This increase is wholly due to a striking augmentation of the population of Freetown, viz., from 34,090 to 44,142, due in considerable measure to immigration from the Protectorate.

The estimated native population of the Protectorate has increased from 1,323,151 in 1911 to 1,450,903 in 1921. For the distribution of Protectorate population, see "Political Administration."

X.—POSTS, TELEGRAPHS, AND TELEPHONES.

(a) Postal.

There was a very considerable expansion of postal business under all heads throughout the year, resulting in record revenue receipts—over £2,000 more than the previous highest. In the main, these results are a measure of the public appreciation of the additional facilities provided in the last three years, and indicate that considerable further progress may be anticipated.

The number of post offices and agencies open at the end of the year was 72 (22 and 50, respectively), four new agencies being opened during the year and one closed owing to the difficulty in obtaining a suitable person to perform the duties. Money-order business was transacted at 24 offices and postal order business at 52.

The postage rate on letters addressed to Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Empire countries was increased from 1½d. for the first ounce and 1d. for each additional ounce or part thereof, to 2d. and 1½d., respectively, as from 1st November.

The air-mail service via Dakar for Morocco, France, England and Europe was frequently made use of during the year and facilities for despatch of such mails to Algeria were provided as from 1st May.

The estimated revenue and expenditure for 1927 and the actual revenue and expenditure for each of the years 1924-27 are shown below :—

REVENUE.					
	<i>Estimated.</i>	<i>Actual.</i>	<i>Actual Revenue.</i>		
	<i>1927.</i>	<i>1927.</i>	<i>1926.</i>	<i>1925.</i>	<i>1924.</i>
	£	£	£	£	£
Net Postal Revenue ...	14,825	16,462	13,215	13,135	11,952
Customs Duties collected on parcels.	8,500	9,887	7,708	7,926	8,135
Sale of stamps for Inland Revenue purposes.	—	3,928	3,285	3,186	3,417
Total Collections ...	—	£30,277	£24,208	£24,247	£23,504

EXPENDITURE.					
	<i>Estimated.</i>	<i>Actual.</i>	<i>Actual Expenditure.</i>		
	<i>1927.</i>	<i>1927.</i>	<i>1926.</i>	<i>1925.</i>	<i>1924.</i>
	£	£	£	£	£
	£17,929	£18,115	£17,330	£17,597	£17,570

The total number of articles which passed through the Post Office during the year is estimated at 1,882,290 as against 1,777,783 in 1926, an increase of 104,507. The total was made up as follows :—

	<i>Letters.</i>	<i>Post Cards.</i>	<i>Other Articles.</i>	<i>Totals.</i>
Despatched to England	177,682	7,311	17,369	202,362
Received from England	217,420	5,961	246,539	469,920
Despatched to Inter-Colonial Ports.	113,068	437	25,480	138,985
Received from Inter-Colonial Ports.	120,109	949	7,923	128,981
Inland	828,492	3,876	109,674	942,042
Totals	1,456,771	18,534	406,985	1,882,290

There were 106,374 registered articles included in the above figures (100,768 in 1926).

The money-order transactions numbered 5,708 and amounted to £47,768. The details as compared with 1926 are shown below :—

		<i>1927.</i>		<i>1926.</i>	
		<i>Number.</i>	<i>Amount.</i>	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Amount.</i>
			£		£
Received from England	495	2,993	446	2,069	
Despatched to England	1,477	8,579	1,468	8,653	
Received from West African Colonies.	767	10,756	605	6,977	
Despatched to West African Colonies.	408	4,421	426	4,321	
Inland	2,561	21,019	2,310	20,570	
Totals	5,708	£47,768	5,255	£42,590	

There was a considerable increase in postal order business. Orders issued numbered 60,357, value £41,476, and Orders paid 49,367, value £35,836. The corresponding figures for 1926 were 55,539, value £38,481 and 46,190, value £33,395.

There was also a very considerable increase in parcel post business. 48,922 parcels were dealt with as against 40,686 in 1926, an increase of 8,236 or 20·2 per cent. 6,650 of the increased number of parcels were exchanged with England.

The number of heavy parcels, i.e., parcels between 11 and 22 lb., included in the above total is 5,087 (4,702 received and 385 despatched) as compared with 2,667 in 1926 (2,328 and 239, respectively).

The number of parcels dealt with under the cash-on-delivery service (instituted on 1st January, 1926) with Great Britain and Northern Ireland shows an extraordinarily large increase for the year. No such parcels were posted locally for Great Britain. The details are shown as compared with 1926 :—

No. of Parcels received.											
G.P.O.		District Offices.				Parcels Delivered.		Parcels Returned.			
Year.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	Total.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	
		£		£		£		£		£	
1926	2,850	6,797	1,944	4,443	4,794	11,240	4,135	9,550	233	685	
1927	5,281	11,619	5,841	12,027	11,122	23,646	9,376	19,776	1,037	2,450	

(b) Telegraphs and Telephones.

The telegraphs and telephones are under the management of the Railway Department, of which the head office is at Water Street, Freetown. There is a telegraph service from Freetown to Pendembu (227½ miles) with important transmitting stations at Bauya (Boia) (64½ miles) and Bo (136 miles). From Bauya there is a telegraph service to Kamabai, the terminus of the branch line (104 miles from Bauya). From Mano, on the railway (106 miles from Freetown), there is a branch line through Sengama, Luawa, and Bendu, and thence by submarine cable across to Bonthe on Sherbro Island (74½ miles). From Sengama there is a branch line via Sumbuya to Pujehun (47 miles). There is also a branch of about 3 miles from Luawa on the Mano-Bonthe line in the Southern Province to Mattru.

From Songo (mile 32) on the railway there is a telephone to Port Loko and thence to Mange and Kamabai in the Northern Province.

There is a telephone service in Freetown with 120 circuits, the main exchange being in Water Street, and there is a sub-exchange at Hill Station.

The total number of telegrams despatched during 1926 and 1927 (exclusive of messages sent on railway service) was :—

	1926.	1927.
Public telegrams	52,726	47,087
Government telegrams ...	17,826	17,077

The revenue from telegrams was £4,373, as compared with £4,932 in 1926.

Telegrams to any part of the world are accepted at any railway station and are sent through the office of the Eastern Telegraph Company in Freetown.

The telephone revenue in 1927 amounted to £1,979.

XI.—COMMUNICATIONS.

(a) Railways.

The total length of line open was 338 miles :—

227½ miles main line, Water Street to Pendembu.

104 miles branch line, Bauya to Kamabai.

5½ miles hill station line.

1 mile branches to Ascension Town and Public Works.

Total 338

Approximately 17 miles of sidings at stations, etc., are in operation.

The capital expenditure on 31st December, 1927, was £1,719,865.

The following are the comparative figures for 1925, 1926, and 1927 :—

	1925.	1926.	1927.
	£	£	£
General Revenue	231,889	228,527	251,477*
Expenditure	176,482	175,392	269,022†
Receipts per train mile (in pence).	109·79	114·01‡	128·46
Working expenses per train mile (in pence).	83·56	87·50‡	90·80
Passengers carried	587,944	498,332	589,898
Tonnage carried	72,298	70,758	77,060

* This includes for the first time £1,674 for contributions to the Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Fund

† This figure includes for the first time loan charges, pensions and gratuities and cost of services rendered by other Departments totalling altogether £80,438.

‡ Based on train mileage, earnings, and working expenses for the ten months March to December; figures for January and February not being available owing to the strike.

The total rolling stock in use consisted of 43 locomotives, 84 coaching vehicles, and 346 goods vehicles.

The revenue, and tonnage of goods carried, constituted a record for the Railway. A strike of railway employees for six weeks in January and February of 1926 considerably affected the figures for that year.

(b) Roads.

The following mileage of first-class roads has been completed and is open for motor traffic :—

Pujehun-Kumrabai Mamila	...	...	...	87
Mano-Taima	...	...	...	15
Moyamba-Sembehun	...	...	...	19
Boagibu-Panguma	...	...	...	45
Segbwema-Gandorhun	...	...	...	29
Pendembu-Mafindo	...	...	...	24
Kamabai-Kabala	...	...	...	7
Koribundu-Sumbuya	...	...	...	21
Koribundu-Blama	...	...	...	2
Total	...	...	...	249

The following mileage of first-class roads is under construction or under survey :—

Pujehun-Kumrabai Mamila	...	...	...	20
Boagibu-Panguma	...	...	...	17½
Segbwema-Gandorhun	..	...	...	9
Kanre Lahun-Dodo	...	...	...	15
Kamabai-Kabala	...	...	...	50
Zimi-Sulima	...	...	...	35
Koribundu-Blama	...	...	...	28
Pujehun-Manni	...	...	...	12
Sumbuya-Mattru	...	...	...	18½
Gandorhun-Sefadu	...	...	...	20
Total	...	...	...	225

The following are being constructed as pioneer roads :—

Pujehun-Manni ;
 Sumbuya-Mattru ;
 Gandorhun-Sefadu ;
 Kamabai-Kabala Road, remainder of.

(c) Waterways.

There is a considerable mileage of waterways in the Colony and Protectorate, but they are only navigable for light-draught vessels.

The following improvements have been carried out :—

(a) The bank above the Deah Rocks at Pujehun was cut back a maximum distance of 60 feet, giving a clear view between sighting targets and a straighter course through the channel ;

(b) Channels were made through two or more reefs of rocks in the Taia River between Taiama and Mano.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Certain public works of considerable importance were undertaken during the year. Among these were the following:—

- (a) Extension to Printing Office.
- (b) Completion of two quarters for the Lands and Forests Department, Kenema.
- (c) Type Hospital, Bo.
- (d) New road, Campbell Street to Congo Town Cross Roads.
- (e) Two bungalows, Hill Station.
- (f) New quarters, Medical Officer, Bonthe.
- (g) New quarters for District Commissioner, Kabala.
- (h) New office for District Commissioner, Kabala.
- (i) New Political and Legal Offices, Moyamba.
- (j) New Customs Offices, Bonthe.
- (k) Continuation of new Government Offices, George Street.
- (l) Continuation of out-patient administrative and store blocks, Connaught Hospital.
- (m) Continuation of Agricultural College, Njala.
- (n) Continuation of Governor's Lodge.

XIII.—FREETOWN CITY COUNCIL.

The Temporary Municipal Board which replaced the late City Council on 28th December, 1926, continued in office throughout the year 1927.

The re-assessment of the City showed an increase of the rateable value of the hereditaments (excluding Government-owned property) from £86,688 to £110,048.

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The Board will continue in office until the 30th April, 1928, and will be superseded by the newly-constituted Council on 1st May, 1928.

XIV.—POLITICAL ADMINISTRATION.

(a) Colony.

The Colony proper consists of the peninsula of Sierra Leone with certain islands in the vicinity, Sherbro and York Island and Turner's Peninsula. Under this section, however, it is only necessary to deal with the Sierra Leone peninsula and adjacent islands, as the island of Sherbro, York Island, and Turner's Peninsula, although parts of the Colony, are administered as Protectorate (except an area of 10 square miles, including the town of Bonthe, which is administered under the Sherbro Judicial District Advisory Board) and are dealt with in the next succeeding sub-head.

The peninsula is divided for administrative purposes into two Districts, viz., (a) Freetown Police District, comprising Freetown and the villages in its vicinity, and the islands of Bunce and Tassoh, and (b) the Headquarters Judicial District, consisting of the remainder of the peninsula and the Bananas Island, administered by a District Commissioner stationed at Waterloo. The District Commissioner of the Headquarters District (as well as the District Commissioner of the Bonthe District above referred to) is assisted by a detachment of the Police Force placed at his disposal by the Commissioner of Police.

The area and population of the divisions of the Colony (i.e., of the territory that is administered as such) are as follows:—

<i>Area.</i>			
<i>Sq. miles. Population.</i>			
Police (including Freetown)	...	50	56,980
Headquarters	... ...	210	23,992
Sherbro Judicial	... ... ...	10	4,281

(b) Protectorate.

For administrative purposes the Protectorate is divided into three Provinces under Provincial Commissioners; the Central Province is sub-divided into four districts, and the Northern and

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Certain public works of considerable importance were undertaken during the year. Among these were the following:—

- (a) Extension to Printing Office.
- (b) Completion of two quarters for the Lands and Forests Department, Kenema.
- (c) Type Hospital, Bo.
- (d) New road, Campbell Street to Congo Town Cross Roads.
- (e) Two bungalows, Hill Station.
- (f) New quarters, Medical Officer, Bonthe.
- (g) New quarters for District Commissioner, Kabala.
- (h) New office for District Commissioner, Kabala.
- (i) New Political and Legal Offices, Moyamba.
- (j) New Customs Offices, Bonthe.
- (k) Continuation of new Government Offices, George Street.
- (l) Continuation of out-patient administrative and store blocks, Connaught Hospital.
- (m) Continuation of Agricultural College, Njala.
- (n) Continuation of Governor's Lodge.

XIII.—FREETOWN CITY COUNCIL.

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Headquarters	210	23,992	
Sherbro Judicial	10	4,281	

(b) Protectorate.

For administrative purposes the Protectorate is divided into three Provinces under Provincial Commissioners; the Central Province is sub-divided into four districts, and the Northern and

Southern Provinces into five each, all under District Commissioners. The area and population of each Province are as follows :—

			<i>Area. Sq. miles.</i>	<i>Approximate Native Population.</i>
Northern	...	...	13,850	572,600
Central	...	...	7,570	594,150
Southern	...	...	5,560	300,650
Totals	...	...	26,980	1,467,400

The total European political staff is 31, consisting of four Provincial Commissioners, 14 District Commissioners, and 13 Assistant District Commissioners. Each Commissioner has at his disposal a clerk or clerks, as the case may be, and a detachment of Court Messengers. The Court Messenger Force, a disciplinary body of Protectorate natives, mostly ex-soldiers, performs in the Protectorate such functions as in the Colony are discharged by the Police Force, as well as other duties necessitated by the exigencies of Protectorate administration.

XV.—ROYAL WEST AFRICAN FRONTIER FORCE.

The Sierra Leone Battalion forms part of the Royal West African Frontier Force, of which His Majesty the King is Colonel-in-Chief.

The Battalion comes, in time of peace, under the orders of the Colonial Government, but whilst operating in Sierra Leone in time of war forms part of the Imperial Military Garrison, under the orders of the Officer Commanding the Troops, Freetown. The Battalion is inspected annually by the Inspector-General, Royal West African Frontier Force, whose Headquarters are at the Colonial Office. This inspection is carried out with the object of ascertaining that there is uniformity of training in the Frontier Force, based as far as practicable on the most modern methods adopted by the Imperial Army.

ESTABLISHMENT.

The establishment of the Battalion was :—

Officers :—

- 1 Major Commanding ;
- 3 Captains ;
- 10 Subalterns (including an Adjutant and a Signalling Officer).

—
Total 14
—

British Warrant and Non-Commissioned Officers :—

- 1 Regimental Sergeant-Major ;
- 1 Armourer Quartermaster-Sergeant ;
- 2 Company Sergeant-Majors ;
- 1 Orderly-Room Sergeant ;
- 2 Company Quartermaster-Sergeants ;
- 1 Signal Sergeant ;
- 4 Sergeants.

Total 12

Rank and File :—

- 337 Native Rank and File ;
- 26 Lewis Gun Carriers.

Total 363

The Reserve consisted of 100 rank and file. These men have hitherto been specially selected for their military capabilities, none of whom have served more than 12 years with the Colours.

LOCATION.

The Headquarters of the Battalion and one Company are stationed at Daru in the Pendembu District of the Central Province, on the main line of the railway, 213 miles from Freetown. The remaining Company is stationed at Makeni, in the Bombali District of the Northern Province, on the branch line of the railway, and 148 miles from Freetown.

INSTRUCTION OF SOLDIERS IN AGRICULTURE.

A system of practical instruction in farming and the rotation of crops has been inaugurated with the assistance of the Agricultural Department. This instruction should prove of great benefit to Sierra Leone in future years in ensuring first of all that all discharged soldiers have a thorough knowledge of the cultivation of crops such as cocoa, coffee, castor oil beans, oil palms, etc., for which there are good markets, and by the sale of which the revenue of the country should benefit in future years. The second, and possibly the greater advantage, is that in making use of the swamp area around Daru for swamp rice cultivation it is hoped from time to time to grow sufficient rice to provide for the annual consumption of the Battalion and thus make this unit a self-supporting one. The swamp rice cultivation has actually commenced.

XVI.—SURVEY DEPARTMENT.

(a) Topographical Branch.

Twelve points were fixed by the framework camp by astronomical and wireless methods. The comparatively slight progress made is attributable to the fact that the officer in charge of this camp became ill at the beginning of April and was subsequently invalided to the United Kingdom. He was not replaced during 1927. The camp was therefore operative for three months only.

273 miles of topographical levels were completed with satisfactory results, no serious misclosures occurring. This work was carried out almost exclusively by pupil surveyors in their second year of training.

8,360 miles of compass traverse, together with aneroid levels, were run. This mileage represents the detail survey of some 6,000 square miles of country, or 20 field sheets.

During the year the six field sheets surveyed in detail during the first season were published at Accra. Copies were issued to all Heads of Departments, Political Officers, etc., and are on sale to the public. A further fifteen sheets were despatched to Accra for reproduction.

(b) Cadastral Branch.

The Survey of Freetown was completed during March. Fourteen out of the twenty-three sheets being published are now on sale.

Considerable progress was made in the survey of the Wilberforce, Murray Town, and Aberdeen areas. Personnel had, however, to be withdrawn from this work for a period of some three months during the rains for the purpose of undertaking the more urgently required survey of a portion of the platinum minefields area. Some ten square miles of this latter area were fully surveyed.

(c) Lands Branch.

The Lands Officer was called upon to deputise for the Officer-in-charge, Cadastral Branch, during the earlier part of the year when the latter was on leave. In addition, he was employed for the greater part of the year as Valuing Assessor, under the Municipal Board, for the City of Freetown. As much headway as was anticipated in the compilation of Records of Land transactions was not therefore made. The progress made in the general work of the branch calls for no special comment.

(d) Survey School.

Ten additional pupils were admitted to the school during February, and were in residence there until December, when they joined Topo field camps in the Protectorate for the first time. Progress was satisfactory.

The fourteen second-year pupils were in the field for the first six months of the year. Their progress has, on the whole, been quite satisfactory, two or three of them showing considerable promise. A noticeable feature was the readiness with which they took to camp life.

XVII.—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

Following on a preliminary investigation in 1926 of certain areas in the Colony and Protectorate the Geological Department was established in 1927, and operations commenced at the end of March.

Towards the end of 1926 a rough survey was made of the haematite deposits which were found at Marampa earlier in the year. Analyses of the bulk of samples collected have since come to hand and it is estimated that there is available to a depth of only 20 feet on the tops of Massaboitanki hill and Bafila hill and to the same depth in a lode at the foot of Massaboitanki hill and to a depth of 5 feet in another deposit, at least $6\frac{1}{2}$ million tons of ore averaging over 61 per cent. of iron, 0.030-0.035 per cent. phosphorus and 0.10 per cent. sulphur. This estimate does not take into account a very large quantity—probably millions of tons—of high-grade "Float" ore.

Where exposed the ore bodies are nearly vertical and it is certain that they extend to much greater depths than 20 feet and, indeed, one lode has been traced from the crest to the foot of Massaboitanki hill—a vertical distance of over 500 feet. Carbonates have not been recognised in the deposits or in the wall-rocks and sulphides are very rare, and there is no reason to believe that the haematite will change into carbonate or sulphide ore in depth.

If the deposits extend to a depth of 100 feet from the surface on the tops of Massaboitanki and Bafila hills, which are respectively about 500 feet and 200 feet above the surrounding country, it is estimated that the total ore reserves would exceed 15,000,000 tons, and on the assumption that the deposits on the above-mentioned hills persist down to the level of the surrounding country the total ore reserves may exceed 50,000,000 tons.

In 1926 platinum was found in stream and beach gravels in the Colony and as a result a more detailed examination of the Colony was made during the months of April, May and part of June, 1927, and very promising deposits of alluvial platinum were discovered in the York District. A nugget of native platinum weighing $4\frac{1}{2}$ dwt., was found in the gravels of one of the streams. An analysis made by the Imperial Institute of the alluvial platinum shows that it is of good quality.

The platinum deposits are associated with a variety of interesting rocks including norite, pyroxenite, anorthosite, periodotite, beerbachite, dolerite and granite. These rocks occur in the form of a basin-shaped sheet (lopolith) the central and western portion of which is cut off on the seaward side.

Occurrences of ilmenite and titaniferous magnetite, some of which may be of economic importance, were also found at several places in the Colony.

A reconnaissance was made of parts of the Ronieta, Port Loko, Kambia and Karene districts and isolated deposits of haematite were found in several places in a belt of rocks averaging between 10 and 15 miles wide which trends in a north-north-western direction and extends at least from the Masimera to Susu Limba chiefdoms. Some of the ore in these deposits is of very good quality, but as far as is known at present the deposits are not comparable in size with the deposits at Marampa.

A few occurrences of rutils and corundum which are worthy of further investigation were also located.

Microscopical and chemical examinations of certain specimens collected during the year were made and a number of specimens were assayed.

In conclusion, the work of the Department during the year has demonstrated that the mineral possibilities of Sierra Leone are by no means inconsiderable and, furthermore, that Sierra Leone possesses very great potential resources of water power which will play a considerable part in the development of the country in the future.

The Department is indebted to the Director of the Gold Coast Geological Survey for analyses of certain specimens and for office accommodation in London, and to the Imperial Institute for analyses of samples submitted to them.

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GOLD COAST

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ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT.

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MAPS OF THE GOLD COAST.

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PREFATORY NOTE.

THE GOLD COAST COLONY with Ashanti, the Northern Territories and the British mandated territory of Togoland is situated on the Gulf of Guinea between 3° 7' W. long. and 1° 14' E. long., and is bounded on the west by the French colony of the Ivory Coast, on the east by the French mandated territory of Togoland, on the north by the French Soudan and on the south by the sea.

The area of the Colony is 23,490 square miles, of Ashanti, 24,560, of the Northern Territories, 30,600 and of the British mandated territory of Togoland, 13,040.

The Colony is inhabited by a large number of native tribes, whose customs and forms of government are of a more or less similar character. Each tribe has its own head chief and every town or village of the tribe a chief or headman.

The head chiefs and chiefs form the council of the tribe, and assist in dealing with matters affecting its general welfare. The succession to the chiefs' stools is for the most part hereditary by the female side, the heir to the stool being the son of the occupant's eldest sister, or, failing male offspring by his sisters, his brothers according to seniority and back from them to the male offspring of his aunts on the father's side.

The principal sea coast tribes are the following:—Apollonia, Ahanta, Shama, Komenda, Elmina, Cape Coast, Fanti, Winneba, Assin Gomoa, Ga, Adangme, Awuna, Agbosome and Aflao.

In the interior of the Colony the principal tribes are:—Aowin, upper and lower Wasaw, Sefwi, upper and lower Denkera, Tufel, Assen, Esikuma, Adjumako, Akim Abuakwa and Akim Kotoku, Akwapim, Eastern and Western Krobo, Akwamu, Krepi, Shai and Ningo.

A number of different languages and dialects are spoken, the principal being Twi, Fanti, Awuna and Ga; but the use of English is widespread.

For the purposes of administration the Colony is divided into three Provinces, each presided over by a Provincial Commissioner. These Provinces are further divided into districts presided over by District Commissioners. Most of these officers perform judicial duties as magistrates in addition to being in administrative charge of their districts. The districts are as follows:—

1. Western Province :—Districts—Axim, Ankobra, Tarkwa, Sekondi-Dixcove, Sefwi and Aowin.
2. Central Province :—Districts—Cape Coast, Saltpond, Winneba and Western Akim.
3. Eastern Province :—Districts—Accra, New Juaben, Akwapim, Volta River, Keta-Ada, Birim, (Akim-Abuakwa), Birim, (Kwahu) and Ho (Togoland).

It is said that as early as the reign of Edward I. (1272-1307) English navigators made voyages to the Gold Coast, and that a hundred years later French adventurers reached the coast, who, about 1364, built several lodges or forts, one being at Elmina, parts of which are supposed to have been subsequently incorporated in the present castle there. No definite evidence, however, exists to support these claims, although it is quite possible they are both correct ; indeed, the natives until quite recently used to point out a hill near Takoradi as the site of a French fort built there many years ago. For our earliest knowledge of the Gold Coast we are indebted to the Portuguese navigators of the later years of the 14th and first part of the 15th centuries. They had been slowly extending their voyages down the West Coast of Africa, and it is recorded that in 1471 Juan de Santerem and Pedro d' Escobar traded for gold in the neighbourhood of Elmina and Chama. They made the first European settlement eleven years later, when an expedition under Diego d'Azumbuja built and garrisoned the fort San Jorge da Mina (Elmina), the materials for which he brought with him from Portugal. Several other settlements were founded, and the country was claimed for the King of Portugal by virtue of a Papal Bull granted in 1430, which gave to Portugal all the islands already discovered and all future discoveries in Guinea. This Bull was confirmed a few years after the foundation of Elmina by Pope Sextus IV. The Portuguese remained in undisputed possession for over fifty years until British merchant adventurers commenced trading on the coast, the earliest voyages of which records remain being those of Thomas Windham and Antoni Anes Pinteado, in 1553, John Lok, in 1554, and William Towrson, in 1555, 1556 and 1558. The British made no settlements at this time and their trade soon lapsed altogether until the early years of 17th century. The Dutch, however, who made their first appearance on the coast in 1595, rapidly became serious rivals of the Portuguese and practically terminated the latter's occupation by capturing Elmina in 1637, and Fort St. Anthony at Axim in 1642. After the activities of the Elizabethan sailors and merchant companies had come to an end, the English connexion with the

Gold Coast was by the efforts of a series of merchant companies, the first of which, called the "Company of Adventurers of London trading into Africa" was founded in 1618, but did not enjoy a successful career. Another company was formed in 1631, which established the first British fort on the coast at Kormantin, and lodges at several other places. This company was engaged in the slave trade, as were also the other European nations. Its charter was renewed in 1651, but in 1661 a new company was incorporated as the "Company of Royal Adventurers of England trading to Africa." Settlements were formed at Anomabu, Accra, and at Cabo Corso (Cape Coast), at which place the castle was built about this time by the English, although the Portuguese probably had a lodge there earlier. Three other European nations succeeded in acquiring territories on the Gold Coast, viz. :—The Swedes, the Brandenburgers, and the Danes. The first-mentioned built the fort of Christiansborg, near Accra about 1645, but were driven out by the Danes in 1657, and retired from the Coast. The Brandenburgers established "Fort Great Fredericksburg" at Prince's River in 1682, and "Fort Dorothea" at Akwida in 1682, but their enterprise does not seem to have been prosecuted with much vigour, and was finally abandoned in 1720, their possessions falling into the hands of the Dutch. The Danes, however, after first selling the fort at Christiansborg to the Portuguese, and re-buying it three years later, rapidly improved their position, building forts at several stations to the East of Accra, as far as Ada and Keta, and exercising a kind of Protectorate over Akwapim, and the Volta River district.

The third English Company was not successful. The Dutch traders spared no efforts to get rid of their rivals, and in consequence of their aggression an expedition was sent by Charles II. in 1664 under the command of Captain Holmes, which recaptured Cape Coast, taken the previous year by the Dutch, and all the other Dutch forts, with the exception of Elmina and possibly Axim. In the following year, however, the Dutch Commander de Ruyter recaptured all the lost Dutch forts, with the exception of Cape Coast; and the Treaty of Breda, 1667 left affairs in the Gold Coast in this condition. The fourth English Company was incorporated in the year 1672 under the name of the "Royal African Company of England." Under its influence English interests steadily advanced and forts were established at Dixcove, Sekondi, Komenda, Anomabu, Tantamkweri, Winneba and Accra. The abolition of the exclusive privileges which the Royal African Company enjoyed led to its decline and eventual dissolution in 1752. By the Acts of Parliament

23 George II., c. 31, and 25 George II., c. 40, a fifth trading Corporation called the "African Company of Merchants" was formed, the membership of which was open to all British traders on payment of a fee of 40s., compensation being paid for its charter and property to the Royal African Company. An annual subsidy was granted by Parliament to the newly-formed Company until 1821, when by the Act 1 and 2 George IV., c. 28, the Company was dissolved and its possessions vested in the Crown, and placed under the Government of the West African Settlements, the seat of government being at Sierra Leone.

In 1824 the Governor of Sierra Leone, Sir Charles Macarthy on visiting Cape Coast Castle found the neighbouring country of the Fantis in possession of the Ashantis. He formed the resolution of inciting the Fantis against their oppressors and led an army of them with a few disciplined soldiers against the Ashantis at Insamankow where, on the 24th January, 1824, he was killed, and his force totally routed. The war which ensued was ended by the victory of the English at Dodowa, near Accra, in 1826. Peace was formally concluded by a tripartite Treaty in 1831, between the English, the Fantis, and the Ashantis.

In the meantime, Her Majesty's Government had inclined to the policy of retiring from the Coast altogether, and after the peace they actually transferred the government of the forts to the local and London merchants interested, who secured as their Governor, Mr. George Maclean, a man of marked energy and capacity. This gentleman, with a force of no more than 100 men at his command, and with a Government subsidy of only £4,400. a year, contrived to extend and maintain the influence of his Government over the whole tract of country now known as the Gold Coast. In 1843, it having been suspected that the Merchant Government connived at the slave trade, the control of the forts was resumed by the Crown, and a Lieutenant-Governor was appointed. Mr. Maclean was continued in the direction of native affairs under the title of Judicial Assessor to the Native Chiefs, which post he held until his death in 1847.

Hitherto the forts of the various nations were intermixed with each other, and there was no defined limit as to where the influence of one or the other began or ended. The imposition of Customs duties was rendered difficult, if not impossible, by the existence of the free ports of a rival nation within a stone's throw, as it were, of the duty ports. On the 24th of January, 1850, by Letters Patent, the Settlements on the Gold Coast ceased to be dependencies of Sierra Leone, and in the same year, by the purchase

of the forts and protectorate of the Danes, the coast line from Christiansborg to Keta and the districts of Shai, Eastern and Western Krobo, Akwapim, Akwamu and Krepi were acquired by England. By a Commission dated the 19th February, 1866, the Gold Coast Settlements were reunited to the Colony of Sierra Leone under one Governor-in-Chief. In 1867, a convention was made with the Dutch by which the portion of the Coast lying to the west of the Sweet River, which flows into the sea between Cape Coast and Elmina, was allotted to Holland, England taking all the territory to the east of the river, and a customs union between the two nations was established. The Dutch, however, found many difficulties in the way of their occupation of the forts and possessions received from the English in exchange for those of their own lying to the East of the boundary line. The native tribes refused to recognise their authority, and the prospect before them was that of a long series of petty wars with no reasonable hope of profit to be gained in the future. The result was the convention made between England and Holland in 1871, by which the Dutch transferred all their forts and possessions on the Coast to the English and Great Britain obtained at last the sole sovereignty and control of the territory from Half-Asini to Aflao. The forts were transferred on the 6th of April, 1872. The present extent and limits of the colony are defined in the Order in Council of 1906.

At the conclusion of peace in 1874, measures were taken to place the government of the Gold Coast upon a footing of efficiency and security.

A new charter was issued, dated the 24th of July, 1874, separating the settlements of the Gold Coast and Lagos from the government of the West African Settlements, and erecting them into one colony under the style of the Gold Coast Colony under a Governor-in-Chief with an Administrator at Lagos. There was one Executive Council and one nominated Legislative Council for the two settlements and one Supreme Court. The charter of 1874 was superseded by Letters Patent dated the 23rd of January, 1883, and the 13th January, 1886 respectively. By the latter instrument Lagos was separated from the Gold Coast and formed into a distinct colony. Provision was made for an Executive and Legislative Council, the members of both being nominated by the Crown. Four unofficial members were appointed to the Legislative Council.

By Royal Instructions dated 20th September, 1916, under Letters Patent of the same date, all previous Instructions were

revoked and the Executive and Legislative Councils were reconstituted. The Executive Council was constituted by the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney-General, the Treasurer, the Director of Medical and Sanitary Services and the Secretary for Native Affairs with the Governor as President. The Legislative Council was constituted by the members of the Executive Council and, in addition, the Comptroller of Customs, the Director of Public Works, the General Manager of Railways, and the Commissioners of the Eastern, Central and Western Provinces, as *ex-officio* members, and such unofficial members as might be appointed by the Crown. By an Order in Council dated 8th April, 1925, Letters Patent and Royal Instructions dated 23rd May, 1925, the Legislative Council was reconstituted. It is now composed of the Governor, fifteen Official Members and fourteen Unofficial Members. The newly-constituted Legislative Council for the first time contains an elective element ; provision having been made for the election of six Head Chiefs as Provincial Members of the Council, three Municipal Members to represent the towns of Accra, Cape Coast, and Sekondi, respectively, a Mercantile Member and a Mining Member.

The currency in use consists of British Bank and Treasury notes and coin, all of which are legal tender as well as West African Currency Notes (value £1 and 10s.) and Coin (value 2s., 1s., 6d., 3d., 1d., $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1/10d.). The English system of weights and measures is followed.

CHAPTER I.—GENERAL.

1. The remarkable prosperity of the Gold Coast continues and there was an appreciable increase in value in both Imports and Exports, the total value of external trade being £28,120,877 compared with £22,390,676 in 1926. The value of Exports was the highest on record in the history of the Gold Coast,* and it exceeded the value of Imports by £579,793.

2. The staple product of the country is cocoa. The value of this commodity exported in 1927 was £11,727,566, which figure represents no less than 81.72 per cent of the total value of the Exports. Compared with 1926 there was an increase in value of £2,546,331 but a decrease in quantity of 20,930 tons.

3. The political atmosphere in the Colony during this period, particularly as regards the relationship between the educated and the illiterate communities and between some of the Sub-Chiefs on the one hand and some of the Paramount Chiefs on the other, was rather strained. There was considerable opposition to the activities of the Provincial Councils of the Eastern and Central Provinces which were formally inaugurated in May, 1926 under the provisions of "The Gold Coast Colony (Legislative Council) Order in Council, 1925." Notwithstanding this opposition, however, these Provincial Councils continued to do valuable work, and the results of their first labours assumed a tangible form in the Native Administration Ordinance which was passed by the Legislative Council in April, 1927. In the Western Province the people were much slower to realise the usefulness and the significance of the Provincial Councils, and it was not until April of the current year that a Provincial Council was formed in that Province.

4. The Native Administration Ordinance was devised to arrest the decay which in a progressive country like the Gold Coast is sure to manifest itself in Native customs and institutions. Its introduction afforded an opportunity to those persons who were unfavourably disposed to certain Paramount Chiefs to engineer an agitation in their Divisions, and for some time many of the Paramount Chiefs found themselves in difficulties. At the end of the year, however, the situation was much improved. The Provincial Councils give the Paramount Chiefs and their Councillors an opportunity to unite for the purpose of preserving natural institutions and customs; to consult together on subjects affecting the common welfare of their people; and to examine and advise Government on any proposed legislation. From the first the Provincial Council of the Eastern Province has been the strongest and the most generally supported. That of the Central Province has now fully recovered from the attacks which at one time seriously interfered with its proper working.

* Gold Coast includes the Gold Coast Colony, Ashanti and the Northern Territories.

5. In Ashanti an Ordinance was enacted by the Governor in July, 1927, providing for the establishment, constitution and management of Stool Treasuries. Under this Ordinance the Governor is empowered to make regulations for the setting up by Head Chiefs of Stool Treasuries, and it is proposed to make a start in certain divisions, selected by the Chief Commissioner, which show a disposition to adopt a system of sound finance. The reconstitution of the Kumasi Division under Prempeh, the ex-King of Ashanti, who after thirty years of exile in the Seychelles was permitted to return to Ashanti as a private person in 1925, has proved in every way satisfactory.

6. In the Northern Territories no political events of outstanding importance occurred during the year.

7. The Government of the Gold Coast was administered by Brigadier-General Sir Frederick Gordon Guggisberg, K.C.M.G., D.S.O., from the 1st of April to the 23rd of April, 1927, when he sailed for England on the expiration of the term of his appointment. After his departure Sir James Crawford Maxwell, K.B.E., C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, administered the Government until the 5th of June, 1927, when he left the Colony to assume duty as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Northern Rhodesia. Mr. John Maxwell, C.M.G., Chief Commissioner of Ashanti, administered the Government from the 6th of June, to the 18th of July, 1927. The Governor, Sir Alexander Ransford Slater, K.C.M.G., C.B.E., arrived in the Colony on the 19th of July, 1927, and administered the Government from that date until the end of the Financial Year.

CHAPTER II.—FINANCE.

Note.—The financial year is from the 1st April to the 31st March.

The following table gives the Revenue and Expenditure for the past five years:—

			Revenue.		Expenditure.
			£		£
1923-24	..	..	3,742,834	..	4,105,938
1924-25	..	..	3,971,187	..	4,632,633
1925-26	..	..	5,871,556 (a)	..	4,255,126
1926-27	..	..	4,365,321	..	4,328,159
1927-28	..	..	4,121,523 (b)	..	3,618,831 (b)

(a) Inclusive of a reimbursement of £1,755,114 from Loan Funds in respect of the amounts advanced in 1923-24 and 1924-25 and charged as Expenditure in the accounts of those years.

(b) The figures of revenue and expenditure for 1923-24, 1924-25, 1925-26 and 1926-27 include gross totals of railway revenue and expenditure. Owing to the separation of railway accounts from the general accounts of the Colony, the figures for 1927-28 include the net railway profit on the working of that year only. Had the revenue and expenditure for 1927-28 been calculated on the same basis as in former years, which included gross railway figures, the revenue would have amounted to £5,217,639 and the expenditure to £4,714,947.

2. The year's working may be summarised as follows:—

Excess of Assets over Liabilities on 1st April, 1927	..	£2,026,634
Revenue	.. .. .	£4,121,523
Expenditure	.. .. .	3,618,831
		<u>502,692</u>
Excess of Assets over Liabilities on 31st March, 1928		£2,529,326
Transferred to Reserve	.. .. .	241,457
		<u>£2,287,869</u>

3. Of the total revenue in 1927-28 the sum of £3,181,481 was derived from Customs Duties, £224,114 from other indirect taxation and £582,331 from non-taxation revenue.

4. In addition to the above balance of assets amounting to £2,287,869, the Reserve Fund and the Supplementary Reserve Fund aggregate £1,387,272, of which amount £1,245,652 has been transferred from surplus Revenue, the balance representing accrued interest. There is a further amount of £334,497 standing to the credit of the Railway Renewals Fund, which is in effect another Reserve Fund, although earmarked for a special purpose.

The gross reserves of the Colony are, therefore :—

Excess of Assets appearing in the Balance Sheet	£2,287,860
Reserve Funds	1,387,272
Railway Renewals Fund	334,497
	<u>£4,009,629</u>

5. On 31st March, 1927, the amount of the Public Debt was £11,791,000, and the amount of the Sinking Funds for its amortisation was £1,112,466.

6. Expenditure on Loan Works to 31st March, 1928, was as follows :—

Amount realised from the loans making up the Public Debt ..	£11,181,224	
Amount voted from Revenue ..	840,653	
Amount advanced from Revenue (recoverable from next Loan)	<u>177,806</u>	
		<u>£12,199,683</u>
Expended on Railways	£7,958,886	
Harbours	3,770,426	
Waterworks	<u>470,371</u>	
		<u>£12,199,683</u>

CHAPTER III.—PRODUCTION.

Agriculture.

Cacao.

Although there was a decrease in export of 20,930 tons compared with the previous year, which was the highest annual export on record, the Gold Coast easily maintained its position as the premier cocoa growing country in the world, producing about one-half of the world's supply. Prices were satisfactory throughout the year.

The percentage of the total quantity exported, as contributed by each Province, is given below, the percentage in the previous year being given for comparison.

	1927—28.	1926—27.
Eastern Province of the Colony ..	35.9	47.23
Central Province of the Colony ..	16.9	16.96
Ashanti and Western Province of the Colony	47.2	35.81

Steps to improve the quality of local cocoa are under consideration.

Kola Nuts.

2. The crop was about normal, but there was a decrease in maritime export of 986,716 lbs. This decrease is ascribed to exports overland through the Northern Territories, of which no record is kept.

Oil Palm Products.

3. The improvement in this industry has not been maintained, exports having fallen by 1,776 tons compared with 1926. Although merchants are willing to buy at a fair price, the quantity of oil offering is small, greater attention being paid to products which are easily prepared for market. Increasing quantities of palm oil are reported to be used for domestic purposes in the place of the cheaper kinds of lard substitutes.

Copra.

4. There is a well-established coconut industry in the Keta District. There was, however, a slight falling off in the export of copra.

Rubber.

5. Owing to the low prices prevalent throughout the world, the export of this commodity fell from 1,418,250 lbs. in 1926 to 711,288 lbs in 1927.

Cotton.

6. The planting of cotton is still in the experimental stage. The yield was slightly higher than that of the previous year.

Food Crops.

7. In general food crops were plentiful and up to average.

Sisal.

8. The output of the Government factory near Accra was 135 tons of fibre in 93 running days as against 459 tons in 274 running days during the previous year. Unfavourable weather conditions accounted for this large decrease.

Veterinary.

9. Tamale in the Northern Territories is the headquarters of the Department, and all the work of the Department is carried out in that Protectorate. The establishment consists of a Principal Veterinary Officer, four Veterinary Officers, one Inspector of Livestock and five African Veterinary Assistants. In addition to this staff, 41 non-commissioned Officers and Constables seconded from the Northern Territories Constabulary carry out Cattle patrol duties.

10. There is a Veterinary School at Tamale for the instruction of Africans who, after a course of four years, may qualify as African Veterinary Assistants and be employed by Government.

11. The following are the functions of the Department :

- (a) To guard the indigenous stock and imported live stock caravans from contagious and infectious disease.
- (b) To suppress any outbreaks of disease when they occur.
- (c) To instruct the stockowners in practical Zootechny.
- (d) To improve the indigenous breeds of live stock.
- (e) Treatment of sick domestic animals.
- (f) Research work in connection with animal diseases and feeding of live stock.
- (g) Breeding experiments.
- (h) To collect the import tax on live stock.

12. The cattle trade is mostly in the hands of Gold Coast Africans, but a few French subjects and Syrians also take part in it. During the past year owing to cattle plague in French Territory there was a slight decrease in trade done.

13. The number of stock passing through the quarantine stations was :—

42,167	Cattle	..	..	Tax	4s.	per head.
50,887	Sheep	..	..	"	6d.	" "
10,561	Goats	..	..	"	6d.	" "
639	Horses	..	..	"	5s.	" "

and the revenue collected at these stations was £10,129 7s. od.

14. There has been a great increase in the supply of locally bred cattle. All the stock has to pass through one of the five quarantine stations for inspection. These stations are on the main caravan routes from French Territory. Cattle are quarantined for nine days and other stock for 24 hours.

15. Serious epidemics of cattle plague occurred. 6,678 head of cattle died and 1,226 recovered and were branded as immune. 7,333 cattle were inoculated by the Serum-alone method and 996 by the Sero-vaccine method. The question of inoculating all young cattle with a view to making them immune from plague is receiving attention. There was also a slight epidemic of trypanosomiasis in one of the Government stock farms which was promptly arrested.

16. The experiment of issuing half and quarter bred English bulls to the Chiefs has resulted in the improvement of their cattle, and the importation of pure bred stock from the United Kingdom continues.

Forestry.

17. Forest policy in the Gold Coast is directed primarily to the preservation of a sufficient area of forest covered land so distributed as to ensure the maintenance of the humid forest type of climate which is an essential factor in the growth of cocoa, kola and other crops on which the prosperity of the Colony largely depends.

18. For this reason and because the natural forests of the country are in native ownership the Forest Department is not directly concerned with exploitation of the forests which is carried on entirely by private enterprise.

19. The mahogany export trade during the year has been normal and undisturbed by serious fluctuations in prices on the Liverpool market. These conditions have made evident the difference in value between good and inferior quality logs. The former are always saleable at reasonably remunerative prices while the latter are not. The following table gives the quantity and value of mahogany exported during the past five years:—

			Cubic feet.	Value.
				£
1923	..	..	1,714,340	171,015
1924	..	..	2,128,404	296,835
1925	..	..	1,772,683	222,258
1926	..	..	1,591,703	174,076
1927	..	..	1,239,721	120,348

The following quotation from the Timber Trade Journal of January 7th, 1928, will be found of interest in connection with the above figures:—

“The demand for the better class of logs is still very strong, and wood showing character is eagerly competed for at every sale, whereas the poorer grade logs are difficult to sell, even at low prices. Fortunately, shippers are becoming more particular as to the class of logs they are now shipping from West African ports, and there is a smaller

“percentage of low-grade wood being sent forward now than
“was the case a couple of years ago. This is making
“conditions more favourable regarding prices, and gives
“buyers a truer insight into the real value of mahogany;
“whereas previously there was a totally wrong impression
“as to the trend of market prices, because large quantities
“of inferior grade logs were shipped here, which nobody
“would buy, eventually being disposed of at ruinous prices
“to the shipper.”

20. Complete and reliable figures are not available to show the quantities of native timbers used within the country, but there are clear indications that a wider use is being made of these. This is a satisfactory tendency since every plank of native timber used represents money kept at home instead of being spent abroad on the purchase of foreign timber. From a wider point of view it effects an economy in consumption of the diminishing world stock of soft woods.

21. Forest Reserves aggregating 393 square miles were constituted by Chiefs during the year bringing the total area of Forest Reserves to 700 square miles, while a further 646 square miles have been demarcated and await constitution.

CHAPTER IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

(THE TRADE FIGURES IN THIS CHAPTER ARE IN RESPECT OF THE CALENDAR YEAR 1927.)

Customs Revenue.

1. The gross receipts for the year, £3,070,954, are the highest on record and are £826,325 in excess of the gross revenue receipts for 1926.

2. Although the quantity of cocoa exported during the calendar year 1927 was 20,930 tons less than in 1926, the value was greater by £2,546,331. The increased purchasing power of the people accounts in a great measure for the considerable increases under every sub-head of the customs revenue.

3. There was an increase of £97,879 in revenue derived from goods subject to *ad valorem* duty, and an increase of £746,540 in revenue from goods which pay *specific* duties.

4. There was an increase of £595,306 in the revenue collected from importation of wines, spirits and malts. The total revenue collected on account of these was £1,622,461, which represented 53 per cent of the total net revenue receipts.

Imports.

5. The value of all imports for the year amounted to £13,770,542, being an increase of £3,484,666 on the previous year, but less by £1,381,603 than the value of the imports during the boom year of 1920.

6. The chief contributors to the increase of £1,562,008 in the value of articles subject to the *ad valorem* rate of duty were cotton piece goods, artificial silk goods, silk goods, iron and steel goods, apparel, cotton goods, perfumery, medicines and drugs and woollen goods.

7. The value of the 1927 imports of articles subject to specific duty, other than wines, spirits and malt liquors, was £560,857 in excess of the value of such imports for 1926. The chief increases were in meats—canned and bottled, fish—canned or preserved, cigarettes, cement, motor spirit, sugar and soap—common. The increase in meats—canned and bottled and fish of all kinds can be ascribed to the fact that, when he has the money, the labourer employed on the cocoa farms, at Takoradi Harbour, at the gold and diamond mines and on other development works in the Colony, prefers "European" food. The importation of motor spirit was not affected by the import duty being raised from 3d. to 6d. a gallon as from the 12th September, 1927, and the increased importation testifies to the great development in motor transport as a result of the constant addition to the mileage of motorable roads in the Gold Coast.

8. The value of the imports of spirituous liquors was greater by £335,895, the principal contributors to the increase being gin, malt liquors, wine (still,) and whisky,

9. The value of the imports of commercial free articles was greater by £995,644. Increases appeared under motor cars and lorries, corrugated iron sheets, coin, beef and pork (pickled and salted), and spare parts for motor vehicles. Of the total importation of 2,914 motor lorries and cars the United States of America supplied 2,261, while the United Kingdom supplied only 290. The United Kingdom supplied 212 motor-cycles out of 223, and 4,863 bicycles out of 5,331 imported.

Exports.

10. The total value of the exports for the year ended 31st December, 1927, was £14,350,335, being £2,245,555 or 18.55 per cent greater in value than the exports for 1926. This total value is the highest on record. The following table gives particulars of the quantities, values and destinations of the principal articles exported in 1926 and 1927.

Articles.	Quantities.		Values.		Principal countries to which exported
	1926.	1927.	1926.	1927.	
Cocoa (raw) .. tons.	230,840	209,910	£ 9,181,235	£ 11,727,566	U.S. America, United Kingdom, Germany and Holland.
Diamonds .. carats.	299,835	460,959	362,833	512,159	United Kingdom.
Fibre (sisal hemp) tons.	456	280	18,195	9,794	United Kingdom.
Gold (raw) .. ozs.	219,999	189,571	850,042	727,182	United Kingdom.
Rubber lbs.	1,418,250	711,288	53,473	30,738	United Kingdom and Germany.
Manganese ore .. tons.	344,933	369,205	684,852	682,962	Norway, France, U.S. America, Canada, United Kingdom and Belgium.
Copra tons.	1,513	1,454	33,482	30,674	Germany.
Kola Nuts .. lbs.	12,474,028	11,487,312	259,479	191,380	Nigeria.
Palm Kernels .. tons.	7,659	6,545	125,556	107,079	United Kingdom and Germany.
Palm Oil tons.	1,752	1,090	52,283	30,227	United Kingdom, U.S. America and Germany.
Mahogany .. cub. ft.	1,880,456	1,239,721	213,928	120,348	U.S. America and United Kingdom.

11. The value of the exports of domestic products and manufactures, excluding bullion, was in excess of that for the previous year by £2,459,618 or 22.36 per cent, but the value of gold produced during 1927 was less than the 1926 output by £122,860.

12. The value (£11,727,566) of the cocoa exported represented 81.72 per cent of the total value of the exports in 1927. The statement hereunder shows the destination of the cocoa exported.

	Quantity Tons.	Value £
United States of America	60,529	3,284,495
United Kingdom	48,288	2,847,234
Germany	44,040	2,440,655
Holland	38,953	2,227,821
France	7,287	408,785
Other countries	10,813	518,576
	209,910	11,727,566

13. The import trade with all parts of the Empire represented 63.56 per cent of the total import trade and is less by 3.44 per cent than similar trade for the year 1926. The share of the import trade appropriated by the United Kingdom was 57.9 per cent, being 2.05 per cent more than in the former year. Imports from British West Africa fell from 9.31 per cent to 3.3 per cent, a decrease of 6.01 per cent on similar imports in the previous year. The United States of America, France and Germany again increased their share of the import trade with the Colony. Holland's share of the import trade again shows a decrease. In 1926 it was 7.08 per cent and in 1927 it was 6.48.

Trade Channels.

14. The channels by which British manufactured goods reach the African consumer are:—

- (a) Direct from manufacturer to consumer, chiefly by parcel post.
- (b) From manufacturer through indent houses in Great Britain to the consumer by freight and parcel post.
- (c) From manufacturer through parent houses in Great Britain of trading firms having branches in West Africa, thence through the branches to the consumer. This is the channel of the largest trade and represents the bulk of steamer freights to the coast.

15. The method of sale adopted is by means of small stores, owned by the various firms, in the towns and villages. The firms have larger stores in the bigger centres and these and the smaller ones are usually in charge of African storekeepers under the supervision of Europeans. In addition there are various stores owned by Africans themselves, who buy their goods from the larger importers, or in some cases import direct. There are great opportunities of direct trade with the African trader, but due enquiries should be made as to his financial standing. Goods are often consigned through the banking houses.

16. Africans also import large quantities of goods for their own personal use through the medium of the parcel post. These

goods are usually ordered from catalogue descriptions and payment is made with order or the goods consigned through one of the banking houses. There are opportunities for developing this trade, but it is necessary that goods should be of the type and quality stated. Advertisements in the local papers will produce quantities of applications for catalogues.

MINES.

Gold.

ABRONTIAKOOK MINES, LIMITED.

17. This mine had to close down in December, 1927 owing to the breaking of a crank shaft with resultant loss to the mining community in the Tarkwa District.

TAQUAH AND ABOSSO MINES, LIMITED.

18. This Company was registered in 1927 as a reconstruction of Taquah and Abosso, Limited, and is working three mines on the banket reef namely Tarquah, Abosso and Adjah Bippo.

New machinery is in course of erection.

ARISTON GOLD MINES, LIMITED AT PRESTEA.

19. Production has not yet commenced but a thorough reconditioning underground is being carried out.

AKOKO MINE.

20. The Akoko Gold Mines, Limited went into liquidation and a new company "New Akoko, Limited" took over the assets and resumed work but closed down in July.

BIBIANI MINE.

21. Bibiani 1927, Limited, acquired from the New Bibiani, Limited, the Bibiani mine and timber concessions and is expected to have a good future now that the motor road from Dunkwa has reached the property.

ASHANTI GOLDFIELDS CORPORATION, LIMITED.

22. This Company is still the premier gold producing property of the Gold Coast, the value of the Gold produced being £436,385.

Manganese.

23. The African Manganese Company working the deposit at Nsuta is the only exporter, the value of the 369,205 tons exported being £682,962.

Diamonds.

24. The African Selection Trust and the West African Diamond Syndicate are still the main producers. 460,959 carats valued at £512,159 were exported during the year.

Labour.

25. No labour was indentured from other Colonies. All those employed at the Mines were engaged locally. The health of mine labourers was good throughout the year.

26. There was again a falling off in the export of raw gold which was counterbalanced by a large increase in the quantity of diamonds exported. The manganese ore industry maintained its importance.

CHAPTER V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Shipping and Harbours.

1. There was a satisfactory increase in the number and tonnage of shipping which entered and cleared during 1927 as compared with 1926. 900 vessels, representing an aggregate net registered tonnage of 2,458,570, entered the ports of the Colony during the year, and 891 vessels of a total net registered tonnage of 2,437,830 cleared for overseas in the same trade period. In 1926 the vessels entered inwards totalled 867, representing a net registered tonnage of 2,407,509, and 865 vessels cleared outwards with a total net registered tonnage of 2,406,927.

2. The following statement shows the nationality of shipping which entered the ports of the Gold Coast during the year 1927 :—

Nationality.	Steam and motor vessels.		Sailing Vessels.	
	Nos.	Net registered tonnage	Nos.	Net registered tonnage
British	492	1,421,905	—	—
German	107	214,964	—	—
French	99	298,658	—	—
Dutch	97	238,357	—	—
American	42	138,855	1	1,107
Norwegian	31	89,589	—	—
Italian	17	36,161	—	—
Danish	12	14,151	—	—
Spanish	2	4,823	—	—
Total	899	2,457,463	1	1,107

Note.—The above figures are in respect of the calendar year 1927.

Takoradi Harbour.

3. Rapid progress was made with the works during the year with the result that the ceremonial opening of the harbour took place on the 3rd of April, 1928.

4. The two breakwaters were substantially completed by the end of September and the wharf by the end of February.

5. Approximately 8 miles of railway track were laid, principally in sidings and in the Harbour area, and 2 miles of tarmacadam road, 20 feet wide, have been constructed.

6. Six new 2-ton electric portal cranes have been installed on the Main Wharf, and three 3-ton electric portal cranes and two 4-ton steam gantry cranes have been transferred from Sekondi Harbour and erected on the Lighter and Timber Wharves.

7. In addition to the 3 sets of steamer moorings laid down during the previous financial year, 20 sets of moorings for tugs and lighters have been fixed in the harbour. One of the two harbour tugs, the "Sir Gordon," arrived at Takoradi in January, 1928, the second, the "Sir Ransford," arrived just after the end of the year under review on 20th April, 1928.

8. Navigation lights and a fog bell have been erected at the extreme ends of the breakwaters, and a lighted whistle buoy has been fixed approximately 2 miles south east of the end of the main breakwater, to serve as a turning-in point for vessels making the harbour during foggy weather.

Railways.

9. The Central Province Railway was completed and taken over by open lines during the year, and the total mileage open for railway traffic in the Gold Coast is now 493.

10. The main line runs in a northerly direction from the port of Sekondi to Kumasi in Ashanti, thence to Accra in a south-easterly direction, a total distance of 362 miles.

11. The branch lines (3' 6" gauge) operated from the Sekondi-Juaso Section are (i) the Inchaban branch which runs in an easterly direction taking off the main line at $4\frac{1}{4}$ miles from Sekondi, and having a length of 4 miles; (ii) the Tarkwa—Prestea branch which runs in a north-westerly direction taking off the main line at Tarkwa, 39 miles from Sekondi, and having a length of 18 miles; and (iii) the Central Province branch which runs in a north easterly direction from Huni Valley, 53 miles from Sekondi, to Kade, a distance of 99 miles.

12. The only branch operated from the Accra Section is the Weshiang branch (2' 6" gauge) which runs from Accra in a westerly direction to Weshiang, a distance of 10 miles.

Finance.

13. The total capital expenditure on the 31st March, 1928, was £8,432,831.

14. The gross revenue amounted to £1,229,713, an increase of £73,260 as compared with the gross revenue for the year 1926-27.

15. The gross expenditure was £1,096,116. This amount includes a contribution of £95,866 to the Renewals Fund; a sum of £7,995 in respect of additional services rendered by other Departments, and a sum of £3,588 in respect of preliminary expenses in connexion with Takoradi Harbour.

16. The transactions of the year resulted in a net profit on account of the railway of £133,597 which was paid to the credit of the general revenue of the Colony.

Traffic.

17. The number of passengers conveyed during the year was 1,728,493, an increase of 275,578 over the previous year.

18. Two additional passenger trains were started between Kumasi and Obuasi on July 25th, 1927, and satisfactory results were obtained.

19. A Sentinel Cammell rail coach was put into service between Nsawam and Accra on March 19th, 1928. It is being well patronised, and it is hoped that the use of this type of coach will be further extended.

20. Kensere Station was opened on July 25th, 1927 and booked 9,482 passengers.

21. The total tonnage of goods traffic (exclusive of live stock) carried during the year 1927—28 was 750,153 a decrease of 55,074 tons compared with the 1926—27 figures.

The principal decreases were:—

Commodity.	Tons carried.	Decrease.
Coal, Coke and Patent Fuel ..	11,073	7,469
Cocoa	131,517	17,672
Manganese	337,526	56,553

The principal increases were:—

Commodity.	Tons carried.	Increase.
Firewood	116,419	8,989
Building materials	20,667	7,503
Imported food staples	15,445	2,736
Machinery	1,117	517
Mining materials	3,021	1,145
Timber	11,583	2,045

Central Province Branch.

22. The remaining portion of this branch from Oda to Kade, 18 miles, was opened on December 12th, 1927. The total number of passengers booked from Wenchi and Kade stations to the end of the year was 2,557 and 6,620 respectively. An improved Time Table came into force on March 19th, 1928, giving connections to and from all stations on this branch to the main line stations between Sekondi and Kumasi and to the Prestea Branch.

Locomotives and Rolling Stock.

23. Twelve locomotives received heavy repairs and 25 locomotives second class repairs. 475 Vehicles received general overhaul. 342,160 super. ft. of timber were cut in the Sawmill.

Working Costs.

24. The working figures of the Locomotive Branch for the year 1927—28 compared with 1926—27 are as follows:—

	1927-28.	1926-27.
Locomotive cost per engine mile ..	33.19d.	31.62d.
Running cost per engine hour ..	13s. 9d.	13s. 4d.
Running Cost per Engine Mile ..	21.97d.	21.42d.
Engine Miles per Engine Hour ..	7.47d.	7.47d.
Engine Miles per Enginemen's Hour	6.02d.	5.78d.
Carriage and Wagon Cost per 100 Vehicle Miles	122.89d.	127.82d.

New Electric Power Scheme.

25. In order to cope with the ever increasing demand for electric light and power in Sekondi and to fulfil the requirements of Takoradi Harbour and Township the construction of a larger power station at Sekondi with a sub-station at Takoradi Harbour was commenced in April, 1927. The work is being carried out departmentally and was about two-thirds completed at the end of the year. It is estimated that the whole scheme will cost £140,500.

Railway Surveys.

26. The preliminary survey of the Northern Territories western route was completed at the end of June, 1927, the distance surveyed being 155 miles. The projected location together with final reports and the estimated cost of construction for both the eastern and western routes were prepared, and full particulars are now available.

27. A preliminary survey was begun on December 20th, 1927, at three points, Tarkwa, Prestea, and Sefwi Bekwai. At the end of March 115 miles had been surveyed, 65 of which have been adopted. The chief reason for this survey is to determine whether it is possible to provide transport facilities for the exploitation of the extensive bauxite deposits near Sefwi Bekwai at a cost which would be economically acceptable both to Government and to any company which undertook the development of the deposits. Such a railway would, moreover, open up the at present scantily developed Western Province of the Colony.

Roads and Motor Transport.

28. The road system of the Gold Coast is constructed entirely with a view to its use by motor cars and lorries fitted with pneumatic tyres. Solid tyres are prohibited by law. The mileage of motor roads is 5,343 of which about one-third may be classified as good, and the remainder as fair. The principal stretches of the more important main roads are completed by a process known as "tarmetting," i.e., about four inches of metal bound with sand and gravel and tar-sprayed. The improvement of the surface owing to this method of construction is most marked and must result in reduced running costs, while in the towns the adoption of this form of construction greatly reduces the dust nuisance. All roads can be and are used continually by cars of the lightest makes as well as heavy vehicles.

29. With the exception of six places, where regular pontoon ferries are established, the roads are adequately bridged, and the necessity for driving through a drift is exceptional.

30. 1,100 cars and 4,250 lorries were licensed during the year, an average of one motor vehicle to each mile of road.

31. The increase in native-owned motor vehicles continues to be remarkable. It is possible to arrange transport for any kind of goods for long or short distances by these vehicles on all the roads of the Colony and Ashanti and on the Kumasi-Tamale road. The traffic in passengers is large.

32. 1,637 motor drivers' certificates of competency were granted during the year.

33. An excellent service of motor omnibuses is working in Accra under the Accra Town Council.

Posts and Telegraphs.

34. The number of Post Offices in the Colony, Ashanti, and the Northern Territories open at the end of the year was 214. Of these 151 were Postal Agencies. There were 120 Telegraph Offices open at the end of the year.

35. The number of cablegrams dealt with in conjunction with the Eastern Telegraph Company was 27,147 as compared with 22,418 in 1926-27.

36. A new Wireless Station is under construction at Takoradi and it will be equipped for communication with other West African Colonies and to link up with the nearest stations of the main Empire Service.

The new Station will be equipped for broadcasting.

37. The extensive telephone trunk line construction programme is nearing completion and practically every town of importance and a number of the larger villages are connected with the telephone system. The number of telephone Stations is now 54.

38. All the old telegraph lines in the Colony have been rebuilt and an extensive and reliable service is now in operation.

39. Owing to the extension of motorable roads the abolition of mail service by head loads is now practically complete and mails are distributed to all principal towns and villages by motor transport.

CHAPTER VI.

JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

Justice.

The Law of the Colony is the Common Law, the doctrines of equity, and the statutes of general application in force in England on the 24th July, 1874, modified by a large number of local Ordinances passed since that date. The Criminal Law was codified in 1892, and the civil and criminal procedure are regulated by the Supreme Court and Criminal Procedure Ordinances both passed in 1876.

2. The jurisdiction of the Supreme Court is limited to the Colony. In Ashanti and the Northern Territories there is a Circuit Judge, who presides over the sittings of the Courts of the Chief Commissioners, with practically the same jurisdiction in civil and criminal cases as the Judges in the Colony.

3. The Full Court, which is the Court of Appeal, must consist of not less than two Judges.

4. The Supreme Court consists of Divisional Courts at Accra, Cape Coast and Sekondi. At Accra there are two Divisional Courts, the Chief Justice presiding over one and a Puisne Judge over the other. Criminal Assizes are held at the above mentioned towns quarterly.

5. The Gold Coast (Privy Council Appeals) Order-in-Council lays down the procedure and rules to be observed in appeals from the Full Court to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

6. Police Magistrates and District Commissioners are *ex officio* Commissioners of the Supreme Court, the former with powers, in criminal cases, of imposing a sentence of imprisonment for one year or a fine of £100, and with jurisdiction in civil cases where the amount in dispute does not exceed £100. The latter's powers in criminal cases are limited to a sentence of six months imprisonment or a fine of £50 and in civil cases to cases where the amount does not exceed £50. Certain District Commissioners' Courts have, however, increased jurisdiction in civil cases up to £100.

7. Appeals from the decisions of the Police Magistrates and Commissioners lie to the Divisional Court. All cases tried by the lower Courts are revised by the Judge of the appropriate Province who has power to reverse any of their judgments.

8. The Chief Law Officer and head of the local Bar is the Attorney-General who is assisted by a Solicitor-General and three Crown Counsel. The Chief Justice has power to admit as Barristers and Solicitors of the Supreme Court any admitted Barrister or Advocate of Great Britain or Ireland and any person who may have been admitted as a Solicitor or Writer to the Signet in any of the Courts at London, Dublin or Edinburgh or as law

agents in Scotland. Every Barrister so admitted is entitled to practise as a Solicitor as well as a Barrister. Barristers and Solicitors are not allowed to practise before the Courts in Ashanti or the Northern Territories.

9. During the period under review 54 cases were disposed of by the Full Court and 506 civil actions were brought in the Divisional Courts. More than half of the actions were for debt and the total shows a considerable increase on that of previous years.

10. In the Superior Courts there were 103 convictions in criminal cases which is slightly below the average of the last three years. In the Courts of Summary Jurisdiction there were 16,769 convictions, an increase of over 4,500 on the previous year. This may be attributed largely to the increased number of prosecutions under the Public Health and Motor Traffic Ordinances.

11. Several volumes of Law Reports have been printed and copies are obtainable from the Crown Agents for the Colonies.

Police.

12. The Gold Coast Colony, Ashanti, and the British mandated sphere of Togoland are policed by the Gold Coast Police with headquarters at Accra.

13. The Northern Territories of the Gold Coast has a separate force in the Northern Territories Constabulary.

14. The Gold Coast Police is divided into three branches, viz.:—

Escort Police; General Police; Marine Police.

15. The Escort Police are mostly natives of the Northern Territories and many of them have served with the Gold Coast Regiment. They are chiefly employed on guards, escorts and patrols and are particularly useful when dealing with any unusual disturbance.

16. Thirty per cent. of the whole force are literate and they are chiefly employed in dealing with the keeping of criminal records, issuing various licences and all other police duties which cannot be carried out by illiterates.

17. The Marine Police are employed at the various ports and are required to carry out their work either on land or water.

18. The Criminal Investigation Department is now well established and over 16,000 criminal finger prints have been filed since 1923. During the past year 855 accused have been identified by this method as having been previously convicted.

19. There has been no specially marked increase in crime, but more minor offences in contravention of the Motor Traffic Laws have been brought before the courts owing to Police activity.

20. The Police Department keeps a register of Domestic Servants. This registration is now compulsory in the Colony and Ashanti.

21. The Department also keeps a Register of all Europeans and Asiatics entering and leaving the Colony, and full particulars of all aliens and of their movements are recorded.

Prisons.

22. The Prisons of the Gold Coast are emerging gradually from a system of negative prevention to a system of training and reformation. Some years ago it was considered sufficient to catch the law breaker and, by keeping him secure under lock and key, to prevent his preying upon the community for a definite period. The object aimed at during recent years is to provide such training during imprisonment as will give the criminal both the means and the incentive to lead the life of a decent law abiding citizen on release.

23. The prisons are divided into two classes (a) the central or convict prisons and (b) the local or small outstation prisons.

24. The convict prisons are supervised by experienced European Officers and are equipped with workshops and staffed by trained instructors. To these prisons are sent all persons sentenced to terms of imprisonment exceeding six months. The following trades are taught:—tailoring, masonry, carpentry shoe-making, furniture-making, cloth and mat weaving, string and rope making.

25. The local Prisons are supervised by the Political Officer of the District in which they are situated and are used for the detention of persons sentenced to terms of imprisonment up to six months. The prisoners in the local prisons are employed on conservancy work.

26. The daily average population of the prisons for 1927-28 was 1,701. The health was good.

CHAPTER VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The most important public works in progress during the year were the construction of the Prince of Wales' School and College at Achimota which is well ahead of schedule time and should be completed by November, 1928. The lay-out of Takoradi Township has proceeded apace. Amongst other items 30 European bungalows, 94 quarters for African Officials, 325 quarters for artisans and the first of the two cocoa sheds and the bonded warehouse have been completed, and work on the Port, Medical, Police and Immigration Offices, the Public Works Department Yard, Police Barracks and Post and Telegraphs Yard is well in hand.

2. Forty-five bungalows for Officials have been built in other stations during the year.

3. New Police Barracks at Mampong (Akwapim), Kibi, Twifu, Oda and Bekwai were erected and those at Koforidua considerably extended.

4. An Infant Welfare Clinic is in course of construction at Kumasi.

5. Plans for new Law Courts to be erected at Accra have been prepared and have been approved.

6. The pipe borne water supplies at Accra, Winneba and Sekondi have been satisfactorily maintained and extensions to the systems have been carried out.

7. The construction of the Cape Coast waterworks is well in hand and should be completed and in operation during the next financial year.

8. Investigations are being carried out in connection with a Water Supply for Kumasi.

9. There are electric light and power supply plants now in the following towns, Accra, Sekondi, Kumasi and Koforidua and also at Aburi.

10. £102,775 was spent on road construction, and the cost of maintaining roads was £70 per mile as against £63 in 1926-7.

11. The cost of buildings erected during the year was £594,017. The figure for the previous year was £384,878.

CHAPTER VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The climate, though hot and damp, is cooler than that of most tropical countries situated in the same latitude. It is not in itself unhealthy; but an evil reputation has been earned for it in the past by the prevalence of mosquito-borne diseases, against which all possible precautions have constantly to be taken.

2. The Gold Coast is peculiarly free from many of the discomforts associated with tropical countries. Hot nights and intense heat by day are the exception rather than the rule, while insects are comparatively unobtrusive.

3. The efforts of the Medical and Sanitary authorities in promoting the treatment of disease and the knowledge of general hygiene, continue to exercise a beneficial effect on the general health.

4. The rainfall varies with the configuration of the country and is highest in the mining Districts of Tarkwa, Upper and Lower Wasaw, etc., and also at Axim. The first rains, or rainy season proper, begin in March and end in July; the later rains are spread over the months of September and October. The rainy season is marked by a considerable fall in temperature, which is found to be refreshing to many Europeans, but proves trying to some. The Harmattan season begins in December and ends in February.

5. Registration of births and deaths is carried out only in twenty-six towns and generally speaking it is admittedly incomplete and inaccurate. At the census of 1921 the total population of the Gold Coast was approximately 2,112,000. No general death rate, birth rate, or infant mortality rate can be worked out, nor can an accurate estimation be made of the more important causes of death, its age incidence or its distribution.

6. From the areas where registration is carried out 5,574 births and 4,884 deaths were reported for the calendar year 1927. The number of deaths under one year old was 679. The population of these registration areas is approximately 245,000.

7. The most common causes of death amongst adults as far as can be ascertained are due to diseases of the respiratory system, e.g., pneumonia, bronchitis and phthisis. Amongst infants the commonest causes in descending order of frequency are marasmus (including inanition), premature birth, diarrhoea (including enteritis, gastro-enteritis, etc.), convulsions, bronchitis (including broncho-pneumonia) and malaria.

8. The most important means to combat these diseases are the improvement of the housing conditions, provision of good water supplies, surface drainage, latrines, anti-mosquito work and disposal of refuse.

9. There are four Infant Welfare Clinics (including one to which a hospital is attached) in which attempts are made to cope to some extent with the infant mortality. The attendances at the

clinics during 1927 were as follows:—

Accra	..	..	..	..	..	11,021
Christiansborg	..	..	..	..	..	5,521
Sekondi	..	..	..	..	..	15,964
Kumasi	..	..	..	..	..	9,769

42,275

10. The general sanitation of the larger towns may be regarded as fairly satisfactory. 426,647 houses were inspected during eleven months with an average larval index of 1.14 per hundred. There were 3,791 prosecutions under the Destruction of Mosquitos Ordinance and 12,908 for insanitary conditions during the same time. The measures detailed in paragraph 8 are being carried out in all the large towns and as far as possible in the surrounding villages. Town planning is actively being carried on.

11. The most serious outbreak of disease was one of yellow fever which was characterised by the wide area over which cases were discovered. This disease was reported from Elmina to Accra along the coast line, up to Obuasi on the Sekondi-Kumasi railway, up to Nsawam on the Accra-Kumasi railway, in Akuse, Late and Sra and in Kpeve, Ho and as far north as Kpando, which last three towns are in the Mandated Area of Togoland. The following table gives the number of cases and deaths:—

	African.	European.	Syrian.
Cases	60	14	3
Deaths	19	10	3

12. There have been a few sporadic cases of small-pox, chiefly in the Northern Territories. Vaccination is carried out at various centres. All the deck passengers landing at the large ports are examined and vaccinated if necessary. 221,373 vaccinations were carried out.

13. A small epidemic of cerebro-spinal fever occurred in a bush village in the Obuasi district of the Eastern Province of Ashanti. Fortunately it was stamped out before the infection was conveyed to the larger centres.

14. In Suhum, an important village near Accra on a main road, thirty-two cases of Relapsing Fever with one death were reported. One non-fatal case was reported from Keta early in the year.

CHAPTER IX.—EDUCATION.

1. Education in the Gold Coast is voluntary and is mainly in the hands of Government and various missionary bodies of which the most important are the Presbyterian Church, the Ewe Presbyterian Church, the Wesleyan Mission, the Roman Catholic Mission, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Mission and the English Church Mission. There are several undenominational schools and one assisted Mohammedan school.

2. Schools are officially recognised as of two kinds, assisted and non-assisted. An assisted school is one which has attained a certain standard of efficiency and receives a Government grant, while a non-assisted school receives no grant, generally because of the low standard of the work and the unsuitability of the buildings and equipment for scholastic purposes. Grants are awarded for general efficiency. They are calculated as a percentage of the expenditure on the salaries paid to teachers.

3. It was felt that Government ought to exercise a closer supervision over the non-assisted schools, so that the standard of work done might be raised and the buildings and equipment improved. Accordingly, the Education Ordinance No. 21 of 1925 was passed. By its provisions the Education Department can exercise some control over the staffing of these schools. Section 5 says "No person shall teach in any Government, assisted or non-assisted school unless he is registered on the Register of Teachers or on the Provisional List as may be prescribed." On the Register of Teachers are the names of those who have some definite qualification. The Provisional List is an emergency measure to prevent the wholesale closing of schools through the scarcity of trained or efficient teachers. On the Provisional List are placed for a limited period the names of those teachers whose qualifications are not good enough to entitle them to registration, but who were engaged in teaching before a certain date. If such a teacher proves himself capable, his name will be transferred to the Register. Gradually these teachers on the Provisional List will be replaced by teachers in the Register, and in the course of a few years the Provisional List should automatically disappear. By the application of the Ordinance a number of non-assisted schools have closed down through lack of staff. These are no loss to the Colony as the standard of work was so low that they did not deserve to be classed as schools.

4. In the Colony and Ashanti there are 17 Government Primary Schools having an enrolment of 3,693 boys and 1,040 girls with a total average attendance of 4,237. Five of these schools are in the Western Province, three in the Central Province, five in the Eastern Province and four in Ashanti. These schools are entirely supported and equipped from Government funds, and the total staff of teachers is 180, nearly all of whom hold

teachers' certificates. The staff of these schools is African except at two of the Girls Schools where a European mistress is in permanent charge.

5. The number of Mission assisted schools in the Colony and Ashanti is 235. The number of known non-assisted schools is 417.

6. The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Mission has two assisted Schools in the Central Province, four in the Trans-Volta district and one in Ashanti. The Presbyterian Church has eleven assisted schools in the Central Province, 67 in the Eastern Province five in the Trans-Volta district and 17 in Ashanti. The schools of the Ewe Presbyterian Church are all situated in the Trans-Volta district. The English Church Mission has three assisted schools in the Western Province, a boys' secondary school at Cape Coast in the Central Province, one school in the Eastern Province and two schools in Ashanti. Seven Roman Catholic Mission Schools (assisted) are situated in the Western Province, ten in the Central Province, eleven in the Trans-Volta district and four in Ashanti. The Wesleyan Mission has nine assisted schools in the Western Province, 18 primary and one secondary in the Central Province, 17 in the Eastern Province and five in Ashanti.

7. There is one undenominational school in Accra on the assisted list, and one Mohammedan school at Saltpond.

8. In the primary schools, in addition to the three R's, special attention is given to the teaching of hygiene, nature study and some form of handwork. The form which the handwork takes depends on the locality. In Government schools woodwork is often taught, while in rural schools attention is paid to mat-weaving, basket-making, brush-making, netting, etc. In girls' schools increasing attention is being paid to domestic science and child welfare. In the past parents showed a great reluctance to having their girls educated, but this antipathy is dying out. There is an increasing demand for education for girls, and several new schools are being built, and plans are being made for the erection of others. At present there are eleven schools in the Colony which are devoted solely to girls. In addition girls attend the ordinary primary schools and take practically the same course as the boys.

9. There are only two secondary schools in the Colony, viz., Mfantipim of the Wesleyan Mission and St. Nicholas Grammar School of the English Church Mission. Both of these schools are in Cape Coast. They are always full and cannot accept all the applicants for admission. They are partly boarding schools and partly day schools. The curriculum is based on the requirements of the Cambridge School Certificate.

10. There is an increasing demand for technical education and this is entirely in the hands of the Government. The Accra Technical School provides a three years' course (practical and theoretical) in engineering and carpentry. This is the only school of its kind in the Colony and the demand for admission is so great that only a small percentage of the applicants can be admitted.

Plans are being made for extension so that more pupils may be admitted and the scope of the work increased.

11. To give a more elementary form of technical education four Junior Trade Schools have been built, one at Kibi in the Eastern Province, one at Assuantsi in the Central Province, one at Mampong in Ashanti and one at Tamale in the Northern Territories. At present there are 222 pupils in residence at these schools, of whom 71 are being trained in wood-work, 50 in masonry, 48 in agriculture and 53 in metalwork. These trades are taught along with the pupils' primary education, the time devoted to literary subjects being one-third of that spent in practical work. Specially promising pupils are given the opportunity of completing their technical training at the Accra Technical School. The object of these schools is to provide a preliminary training for boys who desire to become skilled artisans, but the main aim is the training and development of character and a sense of responsibility in the individual.

12. There are three training colleges for teachers in the Colony, viz.: The Government Training College at Achimota, the Presbyterian Church Training College at Akropong and Wesley College at Kumasi. The Government College trains teachers for its own schools and for any Mission or undenominational body, while the Presbyterian Church Training College and Wesley College train teachers for their own Missions only. At the three training colleges there are 446 students in residence. Students are admitted on completion of their primary school education and undergo four years of training. Education is free and each student is under bond to teach for at least five years in a Government or assisted school. All training colleges are subject to Government inspection.

13. A beginning was made last year with evening classes which may be described as successful. Africans are slowly beginning to realise that their education is not complete when they leave school, and that if they are to be successful in their careers further training is necessary. Literary and technical classes were arranged and a fair number attended. Arrangements are being made to extend the scope of these classes. Employers give their staff every facility to attend. Games, especially Association Football, continue to increase in popularity. Hockey is played regularly at some of the schools. Cricket is not so popular, possibly because of the expense of keeping up equipment, but it is encouraged in all Government Schools. Kibi Junior Trade School has begun to play Rugby football with considerable enthusiasm and success.

14. Girls attending the larger schools are becoming keener on games than they were a few years ago, and are beginning to realise that school is not merely a place for "book learning."

Prince of Wales' School and College, Achimota.

15. This Institution is designed to provide a continuous course of primary and secondary education, special attention being paid to training in character. Accommodation will eventually be available for 750 pupils.

16. Good progress is being made with the School buildings. The Class-Room blocks, the Science and Engineering blocks and four of the Dormitory blocks are now completed.

17. A great deal of progress has been made in laying out the grounds and the playing fields attached to the Institution. The College farm, which was started with a view to raising poultry and stock and for agricultural experiments generally, is being rapidly developed.

18. During the year 1927-28 there were 120 children (boys and girls) in the Kindergarten and Lower Primary classes. These classes are being taught in their own vernaculars and they are also learning conversational English. It is hoped to open the Secondary School in January, 1929. A large number of applications for admission have already been received.

19. In January, 1928, the Accra Training College for Teachers was removed to Achimota. There are 134 students in residence.

20. The Library has grown considerably, and is being increasingly taken advantage of by teachers throughout the country.

21. The College sustained a great loss in the death of Dr. Aggrey, Assistant Vice Principal in America, on July 27th, 1927.

CHAPTER X.—LAND AND SURVEYS.**LAND.**

The cardinal principle adopted by Government in framing its land policy is that all land in the Colony belongs, or did originally belong to the native, and that all land has an owner. That it is not easy to translate this theory into practice is evidenced by the number of law suits relating to the boundaries of land that annually come before the Courts for decision.

2. A more detailed account of the native system of land tenure and the divisions recognised by Native Customary Law will be found on pages 275 to 279 of the "Gold Coast Handbook."

3. Government has power under the existing law, when land is required for public purposes, compulsorily to acquire it upon payment of compensation.

4. When land is required by individuals or companies for mining, agricultural or arboricultural purposes, it is necessary in certain cases to proceed under the Concessions Ordinance, which empowers the Court to impose such conditions upon the tenants as may seem desirable and just in the interests of the native land owners.

5. When land is required merely for building and such purposes it is usual to acquire in accordance with English conveyancing practice. The cost of land is heavy but varies a great deal according to locality.

6. A special Lands Department is at present in course of formation and will take over the duties hitherto performed by the Lands Branch of the Survey Department. This Department, which will be responsible for the conduct of land matters in the Colony in so far as they affect Government, will eventually have branch offices at Takoradi and Kumasi.

7. A Registry of Deeds is attached to the Supreme Court, but the duties of this office will be taken over in due course by the Lands Department. The revision of the present system of registration, with a view to promoting security of title to land is under consideration, and it is hoped by the completion of Key Maps to facilitate transactions in regard to land.

SURVEYS.

8. The Survey Department is divided into four main branches:—

- (a) Headquarters and Printing.
- (b) Cadastral Branch.
- (c) Topographical Branch.
- (d) Survey School.

9. The Printing Branch undertakes the printing of maps, including diagrams, etc., required for various departmental reports

and publications. It has also undertaken the printing of cadastral plans and topographical maps for the Sierra Leone Survey.

10. The Cadastral Branch is concerned with the production of town surveys, large-scale plans and $\frac{1}{2}$ plans required for acquisition or other purposes by the Lands Department. It consists of a Headquarters, Drawing and Computing offices and five Provincial Sections—one for each Province and Ashanti and one for work in the Accra District. In addition there are special temporary parties for the survey of the boundaries of forest reserves and the survey of a rigid framework for the Colony.

11. Town survey sheets on the $\frac{1}{1250}$ scale are available for most of the larger towns including Accra, Sekondi, Kumasi, Nsawam, Koforidua, Dunkwa, etc., and during the year the field work was completed on the town surveys of Cape Coast and Axim. The surveys of 16 forest reserves were also completed. This makes a total of 30 reserves surveyed up to date. The Special Framework Party also completed in the field 100 miles of primary traverse but the whole of this had not been computed by the end of the year. This party, however, was short-handed for the greater part of the year.

12. The Topographical Branch is concerned with the topographical survey of the Colony, the work being published on the $\frac{1}{125,000}$ and $\frac{1}{62,500}$ scales. By the end of March, 1928, 22 sheets had been published on the former scale and 90 on the latter. The total area surveyed to date is about 56,850 miles including 10,000 square miles surveyed in the Northern Territories before the war.

13. During the year under review the Printing Department has carried out a large amount of work for other Departments, and in addition it produced eight field sheets on the $\frac{1}{62,500}$ scale and two standard sheets on the $\frac{1}{125,000}$ scale. It also undertook the publication of an "Atlas" of the Gold Coast, a book containing 24 maps and graphs of various kinds.

14. The greater portion of the personnel of the Topographical Branch was engaged on the two International Boundary Surveys. Good progress was made on these and it is anticipated that the survey of the Western Frontier will be completed about July, 1928, but the Eastern Frontier will not be finished until about June, 1929.

15. The Kintampo, Banda, Navrongo and Tumu sheets, which were in hand last year, were completed, and a revision of the Accra standard sheet was commenced.

16. The Survey School exists for the training of African surveyors for the Survey Department, and it also undertakes the training of a certain number of African Building Inspectors for the Public Works Department. During the year eight pupils completed their course as surveyors and seven building inspectors, while a new class of 24 pupils commenced work in January, 1928. The School, which had previously been housed at Abetifi in buildings

lent by the Scottish Mission, moved in January, 1928, to new and up to date buildings erected for the purpose on the Dodowa Road, Accra.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

17. For the first two months of the year under review the Director and three Geologists were engaged in field work in the Northern Territories in districts through which pass the surveyed alternative routes of the proposed Northern Territories railway.

18. The examination of the deposits of bauxite, discovered in the Yenahin district west of Kumasi, Ashanti, in 1923 was resumed and traverses made through the country between Yenahin and the Tano River.

19. Geological examinations and reports on the locality about the site of the proposed reservoir for the permanent water-supply of Kumasi were made, and also of the Koforidua locality with a view to the discovery of supplementary domestic supplies of water for that town.

20. The general results of the field-work may be briefly summarised under two heads:—I. Economic ; II. Scientific.

I.—Economic Results.

BAUXITE.

21. (Aluminium ore). A further examination of the bauxite deposits of the Yenahin district, by the sinking of shafts and general field-work, has proved them to vary in thickness from about 20 feet to 50 feet. A large proportion of the material is of high grade, and the quantity is estimated at upwards of 100 million tons.

A good deal of bauxite was also found on the northern portion of the Atiwa Range near the source of the Pusu Pusu stream. Some of it is of very good quality, but much of it highly ferriferous.

MANGANESE ORE.

22. A deposit of considerable extent, estimated to contain several hundred thousand tons of manganese ore, was discovered in the Yenahin district. It is associated with the deposits of bauxite (aluminium ore). A good deal of this ore is of high grade.

At numerous places in the Northern Territories manganese-bearing phyllites have been located, and deposits of manganese ore found.

DIAMONDS.

23. Good prospects of diamonds were found by panning at various places hitherto untested by the Geological Survey in the basin of the Birim River in the Colony. Some of these are in areas held under mining lease ; others are beyond their boundaries.

IRON.

24. Near Pudo in the eastern portion of the Tumu District, Northern Territories an area of considerable size strewn with small lumps and coarse gravel of titaniferous haematite was found north from Basisan.

PLATINUM.

25. From a dyke of ultrabasic rock north of Konchoggaw, eastern Tumu, Northern Territories a sample of rock analysed for platinum proved to contain that metal in very small quantities.

BUILDING—STONES AND POTTERY-CLAYS.

26. Many different types of highly serviceable building-stones for general engineering purposes were noted at numerous places in the Colony, Ashanti and the Northern Territories. Similarly clays of good quality for the commoner types of pottery were found.

WATER-POWER.

27. Observations and measurements of streams were made with regard to their possible value for hydro-electric purposes and irrigation.

II.—Scientific Results.

28. In the Yenahin district manganese ore has been discovered associated with bauxite.

PUBLICATIONS.

29. The publication of the Geological Map of the Gold Coast has been deferred for the incorporation in it of results of surveys in the Northern Territories connected with prospective railway extension.

Bulletin No. 3, "Report on the Gambia Colony" has been published.

Bulletin No. 4, "Report on the Microscopical Features and Chemical Analyses of Certain Representative Igneous Rocks from the Gold Coast" is in the press for publication.

CHAPTER XI.—LABOUR.

All over the Gold Coast may be found in large numbers illiterate labourers who have been attracted from the French territory to the north by the prospect of good work and wages. These, with the natives of the Northern Territories who have been led to travel southward by the same inducements, form the bulk of the unskilled labour supply. As workers they are reliable and strong and fairly adaptable without being conspicuous for intelligence; they are chosen for preference by European employers on most works involving manual labour. Wages average 1s. 6d. per day for men, and 1s. for women and boys.

2. The work on the farms and native buildings is done mainly by the owners and their families. Immigrant labourers are also employed, however, especially in gathering cocoa.

3. The demand for skilled labour is met by artisans trained by the various Government or Mission institutions and as apprentices in the Government Departments. Carpenters, blacksmiths, masons and mechanics are not difficult to obtain. They earn from 3s. 6d. to 5s. a day, or more, according to knowledge and experience.

CHAPTER XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Legislation.

(This section deals with the calendar year, 1927),

Gold Coast Colony.

1. During the year 34 Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council, of which the following are those of more general interest :—

2. No. 8 of 1927, The Criminal Code Amendment Ordinance 1927, prohibits the publication in the press of advertisements relating to fortune telling, palmistry, astrology, and the like, such advertisements being likely to impose on members of the public

3. No. 13 of 1927, The Forests Ordinance, 1927, takes the place of the old Forests Ordinance (Chapter 95). The old law, which related only to unoccupied lands, was never applied. The 1927 Ordinance which repeals Chapter 95 provides for the creation of forest reserves on the following areas :—

(1) Crown Land.

(2) Tribal or Stool land.

(3) Private land at the request of the owner.

(4) Lands on which the destruction of forests is diminishing or is likely to diminish the water supply, or is injuring or is likely to injure the agricultural conditions of neighbouring lands, or is imperilling the continuous supply of forest produce to towns or villages on or contiguous to such lands.

4. No. 15 of 1927, The Provincial Councils (Further Provisions) Ordinance, 1927, implements the provisions of Clause XVI of the Gold Coast Colony (Legislative Council) Order in Council, 1925, which provides for the establishment of Provincial Councils of Paramount Chiefs in each Province of the Colony.

5. No. 18 of 1927, The Native Administration Ordinance, 1927, is in a large measure a consolidating Ordinance taking the place of the following Ordinances, viz.:—The Chiefs Ordinance, the Stool Property Detention Ordinance and the Native Jurisdiction Ordinance. At the same time it introduces a number of important changes in the law relating to native administration, viz.

(1) Under the Native Jurisdiction Ordinance the Native Tribunals had jurisdiction over natives who were members of a native community of the Gold Coast, Ashanti or the Northern Territories. Under the new Ordinance their jurisdiction extends, subject to certain exemptions, over persons of African descent who are natives of West Africa, or persons of African descent ordinarily residing within any of the above-mentioned territories.

(2) Recognition is given to the position of the State Councils in the native constitution. Provision is made for

the exercise by these Councils of important functions in connexion with the installation, abdication and deposition of Paramount and Divisional (subordinate) Chiefs. They are also given jurisdiction to deal with certain offences of a political nature.

(3) The Supreme Court ceases to exercise jurisdiction in cases touching political or constitutional disputes between native authorities, or in land cases arising between Paramount or Divisional Chiefs belonging to different States. Jurisdiction in such land cases is transferred to the newly constituted Provincial Councils, which are also empowered to deal with certain disputes of a constitutional nature, as well as with questions, matters or disputes referred to them by the Governor.

(4) The jurisdiction of the Tribunals is increased in many respects, that of the Paramount Chiefs' Tribunals now becoming considerably larger than that of the Divisional Chiefs' Tribunals.

6. Nos. 26 and 27 of 1927, The Gold Coast Defence Force Ordinance, 1927 and the Gold Coast Territorial Force Ordinance, 1927, provide for the establishment of European and African military forces for defence purposes.

7. No. 34 of 1927, The Takoradi Harbour Ordinance, 1927 which, as its name connotes, provides for the management of the new Harbour.

Ashanti.

8. During the year 1927 sixteen Ordinances were enacted with respect to Ashanti.

9. No. 6 of 1927, The Forests Ordinance, 1927, and No. 14 of 1927, The Gold Coast Defence and Territorial Force Ordinance, 1927, apply the corresponding Gold Coast Colony legislation to Ashanti.

10. Of the rest the only Ordinance requiring special notice is No. 10 of 1927, The Stool Treasuries Ordinance, 1927, which provides for the establishment of Stool Treasuries, and enables the Governor to make regulations, and the native authorities by-laws, in relation thereto.

Northern Territories.

11. Of the seven Ordinances passed with respect to the Northern Territories of the Gold Coast, the following are of special interest :—

12. No. 1 of 1927, The Land and Native Rights Ordinance. By this Ordinance all lands in the Northern Territories, with certain exceptions, are declared to be public lands, and are placed under the control and made subject to the disposition of the Governor for the common use and benefit of the natives. A title to the occupation and use of land is to be termed a right of occupancy, and it is lawful for the Governor to grant such right

to natives and non-natives on terms for which provision is made in the Ordinance. The Ordinance does not affect mining rights or interests, which remain subject to the Mineral Rights Ordinance, 1904.

13. No. 2 of 1927, The Land Disputes (Executive Settlement) Ordinance, 1927, empowers Commissioners of the Protectorate in their executive capacity to hear and determine disputes between natives relating to land. Disregard or defiance of a decision or settlement made under the Ordinance is to be deemed an offence. But the provisions of the Ordinance do not extend to the settlement of disputes in connexion with the Mineral Rights Ordinance, 1904, or with the Land and Native Rights Ordinance, 1927.

British Sphere of Togoland.

14. During the year 1927 two Ordinances were enacted with respect to the British Sphere of Togoland.

15. No. 1 of 1927, The Land Ordinance, 1927, excludes from operation with respect to the Northern Section of the British Sphere of Togoland the Northern Territories Ordinance entitled The Land and Native Rights Ordinance, 1927, and in effect applies to the former territory the provisions of the Northern Territories Ordinance entitled The Land Disputes (Executive Settlement) Ordinance, 1927.

Banking.

16. The Government banks with the various branches of the Bank of British West Africa and Barclay's Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas).

17. The Bank of British West Africa, which commenced business in Accra on the 1st January, 1897, has opened branches at Axim, Sekondi, Tarkwa, Kumasi, Cape Coast, Saltpond, Winneba, Bekwai, Koforidua, Nsawam and Dunkwa, and agencies at Obuasi, Prestea and Half Assini.

18. The Colonial Bank, now Barclay's Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas), established in Accra on the 24th February, 1917, has branches at Sekondi, Winneba, Kumasi, Koforidua and Nsawam.

19. A Government Savings Bank conducted by the Treasury was established in 1888. The business was transferred to the Post Office in 1905, and is rapidly increasing. The amount standing to the credit of depositors on 31st December, 1927 was £72,617, an increase of £5,693, over last year.

20. Penny Banks in connection with the Post Office have also been established in the principal Government Schools.

Imperial Institute.

21. Showcases have been installed in the new site for the Court in the North Gallery, and specimens of products illustrating the more important industries have been arranged therein.

22. A series of exhibits illustrating the manufacture of cocoa and chocolate has been presented by Messrs. Cadbury and is on exhibition in the Court.

23. A number of photographs illustrating Cocoa, Sisal, Lumbering, Diamond and Manganese Mining have been enlarged and are shown with their related exhibits in the Court.

24. Samples of Gold Coast rubber were included in the special display of Empire rubber at the Rubber Exhibition which was held at the Imperial Institute in December.

25. Progress has been made with the dioramas which are to be installed in the Court.

26. The Gold Coast Court was visited by Their Majesties the King and Queen on November 16th and by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales on January 12th.

27. Lectures on the Gold Coast and Gold Coast products have been given to school parties and others by the Guide Lecturers.

28. Specimens of Gold Coast products have been sent to enquirers and have also been included in the collections for use in school museums.

29. Pamphlets relating to the Gold Coast have been distributed from the Central Stand, where picture postcard views of the Gold Coast are on sale.

30. In July, 1927 a Cinema was installed at the Imperial Institute, funds for the construction and maintenance of which are provided by the Empire Marketing Board.

31. Two hundred and thirty-six showings of West African films have been made since the opening of the Cinema in July until 31st December, 1927. The total attendance in the Cinema during the period mentioned amounted to 135,545 persons, including 1,291 parties of children from colleges and schools in and near London.

APPENDIX A.

LIST OF CERTAIN PUBLICATIONS, PRICES THEREOF AND WHERE THEY MAY BE OBTAINED.

Publication.	Price.	From whom obtainable.
Address by the Governor on Estimates.	1 /-	Colonial Secretary's Office, Accra, Gold Coast Commercial Intelligence Bureau, London.
Departmental Annual Reports (bound).	15 /-	Colonial Secretary's Office, Accra, Crown Agents, London.
Blue Book.	15 /-	Colonial Secretary's Office, Accra, Gold Coast Commercial Intelligence Bureau, London.
Civil Service List.	1 /6d.	Colonial Secretary's Office, Accra.
Legislative Council Debates (bound).	10 /6d.	Colonial Secretary's Office, Accra.
Gazettes.	1d. per leaf.	Colonial Secretary's Office, Accra, Crown Agents, London.
Gazettes—Annual Subscription.	£2	Colonial Secretary's Office, Accra, Crown Agents, London.
Gold Coast Handbook.	7 /6	Colonial Secretary's Office, Accra, Crown Agents, London.
Gold Coast Review.	2 /-	Colonial Secretary's Office, Accra, Commissioner of Western Province, Sekondi, Commissioner of Central Province, Cape Coast, Gold Coast Commercial Intelligence Bureau, London.
Customs Import and Export Lists.	2 /-	Colonial Secretary's Office, Accra.
Customs Tariff and Customs House Guide.	3 /-	H.M. Customs, Accra.

APPENDIX A—*continued.*

Publication.	Price.	From whom obtainable.
Geological Survey Bulletin No. 1—Outline of the Mineral and Water- Power Resources of the Gold Coast, British West Africa, with Hints on Prospecting.	1/-	Colonial Secretary's Office, Accra.
Road Guide.	2/-	Colonial Secretary's Office, Accra.
The Gold Coast: Some Consideration of its Structure, People and Natural History.	1/-	Colonial Secretary's Office, Accra.

APPENDIX B.

AGENTS FOR THE SALE OF GOLD COAST MAPS.

Maps.	Price.	From whom obtainable.
		<i>In Great Britain.</i>
Wall Map of Colony, 2nd Edition, 1927.—Size 66 x 88 inches, Scale 1-69 inches to 10 miles. Mounted on cloth and rollers.	£1 10s. 0d.	W. & A. K. Johnston, Ltd., Easter Road, Edinburgh.
General Map of Colony and dependencies—Size 31 x 21 inches. Scale 1/1,000,000.	Folded 8/- Flat 4/-	Edward Stanford, Ltd., 12-14, Long Acre, London, W.C.2.
Standard Map.—Scale 1/125,000, or nearly two miles to the inch.	Folded 4/- Flat 2/-	Sifton Praed & Co., Ltd., 67, St. James Street, London, W.C.1.

AGENTS FOR THE SALE OF GOLD COAST MAPS.—*contd.*

Maps.	Price.	From whom obtainable.
		<i>In Great Britain.</i>
Town Plans.—Accra, scale 1/1,250.	2 /-	Philip, Son & Nephew, 20 Church Street, Liverpool.
do. Scale 1/350, in two sheets.	2 /- each Folded 8 /-	J. E. Cornish, Ltd., 16, St. Ann's Square, Manchester.
		<i>In the Gold Coast.</i>
do. Kumasi, scale 1/6,250, in two sheets.	2 /- each Folded 8 /-	Surveyor-General, Cantonments, Accra.
do. Scale 1/1,250.	2/- per copy.	African & Eastern Trade Corporation, Ltd., Accra and branches.
Topographical Map.— Scale 1/62,500, or nearly one inch to one mile.	Folded 4 /- Flat 2 /-	Wesleyan Methodist Book Depot, Cape Coast, Kumasi and Sekondi.
Road Map.—1/500,000. Shows all motor routes with official numbers of sections.	Folded 8 /- Flat 4 /-	do.

N.B.—The address of the Colonial Secretary's Office is P.O. Box No. 140, Accra, Gold Coast.

The address of the Gold Coast Commercial Intelligence Bureau is Abbey House, 8 Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.

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The Eighth Report of the Committee, "The Functions and
Work of the Imperial Economic Committee," 6d. (7d.). The
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No. 1419.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1927-28

*(For Reports for 1925-26 and 1926-27 see Nos. 1323 and 1371,
respectively (Price 1s. each.).)*



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LEEWARD ISLANDS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1927-28.

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INTRODUCTORY.

The Leeward Islands form the most northerly group of the " Lesser Antilles " in the West Indies and lie between $18^{\circ}27'$ and $15^{\circ}10'$. The Colony is a Federation comprising the five " Presidencies," formerly separate colonies, of Antigua; St. Christopher (usually called St. Kitts), with which Presidency is included Nevis; Dominica; Montserrat; and the Virgin Islands.

The Governments of the first three Presidencies are each administered by an " Administrator," while the officers in charge of the two smaller Presidencies of Montserrat and the Virgin Islands have the title of " Commissioner." All the Presidencies form together one Colony under a Governor and Commander-in-Chief, who is resident at Antigua, the headquarters of the Colony. When the Governor is visiting the other Presidencies the Colonial Secretary assumes the office of Administrator of Antigua; and when the Governor is absent from the Colony the Government is administered in accordance with the Dormant Commission issued for the purpose.

Councils.—There is an Executive and a Legislative Council for the Colony, and also separate Executive and Legislative Councils for each of the four larger Presidencies, the Virgin Islands having only an Executive Council.

The Legislative Council of the Colony consists of ten official and ten elective members, three of the elective members being chosen by the unofficial members of the Antigua Legislative Council, three by those of St. Kitts-Nevis, two by those of Dominica, and one by those of Montserrat, and one is a person, resident in the Virgin Islands, appointed by the Governor.

1.—FINANCIAL.

Revenue.

During the financial year 1927-28 the total revenue (inclusive of £8,500 from Imperial funds) of the various Presidencies comprising the Colony of the Leeward Islands was £288,572, made up as follows :—

	£
Antigua	93,436
St. Kitts-Nevis	94,161
Dominica	68,815
Montserrat	22,426
Virgin Islands	9,734
	<hr/>
	£288,572

showing a decrease of £731 in comparison with the revenue of the previous year.

The following Grants-in-Aid from the Imperial Government were made to the Presidency of Dominica during the year under report :

	£
Peasants' Information Bureau	6,000
Agricultural Loans	2,500
	<hr/>
	£8,500

The following expenditure was charged against Imperial Grants :

	£	s.	d.
Public Works Extraordinary	1,543	5	2
Sanitary Campaign	3,844	16	2
Agricultural	1,601	10	8
Agricultural Loans	13,235	18	9
	<hr/>		
	£20,225	10	9

Expenditure.

The total expenditure for the year 1927-28 was £284,203, made up as follows :—

	£
Antigua	83,149
St. Kitts-Nevis	93,113
Dominica	80,715
Montserrat	19,986
Virgin Islands	7,240
	<hr/>
	£284,203

showing an increase of £25,166 in comparison with the expenditure of the previous year.

The following table shows the amount standing to the credit of the Reserve Fund on the 31st March, 1928 :—

	£	s.	d.
Antigua	11,457	12	3
St. Kitts-Nevis	10,750	0	0
Montserrat	10,041	14	8
Virgin Islands	10,090	10	10
	<hr/>		
	£42,339	17	9

The excess of assets over liabilities on the 31st March, 1928, was £8,274 9s. 5d., made up as follows :—

<i>Presidency.</i>	<i>Assets.</i>	<i>Liabilities.</i>
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Antigua	4,149 6 5½	—
St. Kitts-Nevis	4,966 16 10	—
Dominica	—	10,601 2 11
Montserrat	5,199 3 8½	—
Virgin Islands	4,560 5 4	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£18,875 12 4	£10,601 2 11
	—	8,274 9 5
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£18,875 12 4	£18,875 12 4

The public debt of the Colony, secured on the general revenues of the Presidencies, amounted to £288,650 on the 31st March, 1928.

The following table shows the amount of loans raised and the amounts standing to the credit of the sinking funds on 31st March, 1928 :—

<i>Presidency.</i>	<i>Total Amount of Loans Raised.</i>			<i>Amount to Credit of Sinking Fund.</i>		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Antigua	145,300	0	0	87,998	2	1
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	69,250	0	0	42,518	8	7
Dominica	60,000	0	0	45,196	4	1
Montserrat	14,100	0	0	8,323	8	2
	<u>£288,650</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>£184,036</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>11</u>

II.—IMPORTS, EXPORTS, AND SHIPPING.

Imports.

The total value of the imports for the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1927 amounted to £854,316 as against £842,464 in 1926 being an increase of £11,852.

The following table shows the imports into each Presidency of the Colony :—

	<i>United Kingdom.</i>	<i>British Possessions.</i>	<i>Foreign Countries.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
	£	£	£	£
Antigua	91,957	81,192	91,269	264,418
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	119,075	116,971	93,372	329,418
Dominica	51,335	69,298	47,997	168,630
Montserrat	16,720	33,826	12,654	63,200
Virgin Islands ...	2,497	12,787	13,366	28,650
	<u>£281,584</u>	<u>£314,074</u>	<u>£258,658</u>	<u>£854,316</u>

Exports.

The total value of the exports for the year 1927 was £987,229 as against £689,113 in 1926, being an increase of £298,116.

The following table shows the exports from each Presidency of the Colony :—

	<i>United Kingdom.</i>	<i>British Possessions.</i>	<i>Foreign Countries.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
	£	£	£	£
Antigua	111,208	280,472	5,037	396,717
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	114,704	221,672	17,097	353,473
Dominica	46,538	15,812	93,456	155,806
Montserrat	52,299	10,261	6,193	68,753
Virgin Islands ...	603	326	11,551	12,480
	<u>£325,352</u>	<u>£528,543</u>	<u>£133,334</u>	<u>£987,229</u>

Shipping.

The following table shows the tonnage of shipping entered and cleared during the year :—

			<i>British Tons.</i>	<i>Foreign Tons.</i>	<i>Total Tons.</i>
Antigua	...	...	921,378	160,326	1,081,704
St. Kitts-Nevis	...	...	937,254	148,926	1,086,180
Dominica	...	...	672,734	111,584	784,318
Montserrat	...	...	402,747	1,619	404,366
Virgin Islands	...	...	13,540	3,642	17,182
Totals	...	...	2,947,653	426,097	3,373,750

III.—LEGISLATION.**Leeward Islands.**

There were thirteen Public General Statutes passed by the General Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands during the year, and one Private Act. Of the Public General Statutes the following may be noticed :—

The Indictments Act, No. 1 of 1927, amends the procedure upon Indictments presented in the Supreme Court so as to bring that procedure in line with the procedure in England under the Indictments Act, 1915.

The forms set out in the appendix to the rules in the English Act, 1915, are adopted *mutatis mutandis*.

A Rule Committee is appointed and has power to make rules and also to annul the rules in the Schedule. Provisions are made in respect of joinder of felonies and misdemeanours, and for safeguarding any person accused, if in the opinion of the Court embarrassment is caused to the defence by joinder.

Railway Offences Act, No. 6 of 1927.—Up to the passing of this Act there was no Statute in the Colony providing specifically for offences in respect of railways. This Act makes it a felony punishable by imprisonment for any term not exceeding three years hard labour for any person unlawfully and maliciously to injure certain railway property or to throw anything on any railway or truck; and makes it a misdemeanour, punishable for any term not exceeding two years, unlawfully to throw anything liable to explode, etc., on a railway; or to remove or displace any railway points. It is also made a misdemeanour by wilful omission or neglect to endanger the safety of any person conveyed or being upon any railway.

The Bills of Exchange Act, 1887, Amendment Act, 1927, No. 7 of 1927.—This Act amends the Bills of Exchange Act, 1887, by allowing the noting of the dishonour of a Bill to be made on the day succeeding the dishonour instead of it being necessary as before to note the Bill on the day of its dishonour. The Act also provides

that a draft drawn by a banker on the head office or branch in the Colony, payable to order or demand, shall be deemed to be a Bill for the purpose of the protection accorded to a banker who pays a Bill in good faith upon a forged endorsement.

The Pensions Amendment Act, No. 5 of 1927, confers the right on every public officer who is eligible for pension to commute a portion of his pension for a gratuity, provided his election is notified within six months after he becomes eligible for pension. Provision is also made for the payment of a gratuity to women upon marriage, and power is conferred on the Governor in Council to grant to the personal representative of an officer, holding a pensionable office, who dies in the service of the Colony one year's pensionable emoluments. The pension of an officer who is re-employed in the Colony after retirement is dealt with, and such an officer may, in certain cases, receive a separate pension in respect of his re-employment.

The Act was brought into force by Proclamation on the 1st day of September, 1927.

The Overseas Nurses' Pensions Act, No. 13 of 1927, provides for the payment of a pension to Nurses receiving an appointment through the Overseas Nursing Association after three years' service in the Colony, provided that her total public service is fifteen years, but no pension is payable until the age of 50 years unless the retirement is on account of illness. Certificates of satisfactory service must be produced.

Antigua.

During the year, 24 Statutes were passed by the Legislative Council of Antigua, the greater number of which were amendments to the Revenue Laws. Only three of these Ordinances are likely to be of interest, viz. :—

The Customs Duties Ordinance, No. 11 of 1927, which provides for giving effect to the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement of 1925 and consolidates the law relating to customs duties.

The Governor (exemption from taxation) Ordinance, No. 13 of 1927, which exempts the Governor from all taxes in force in the Presidency.

The Turtle Ordinance, No. 17 of 1927, which makes it an offence to catch or take turtle or turtle eggs between the 1st of June and the 30th of September, or to expose them for sale between those days, and limits the size of turtles which may be caught or taken. The same restrictions are made to apply in respect of tortoises from the 1st of April to the 31st of July, both days inclusive. A penalty not exceeding ten pounds is imposed. Power to arrest is given to any constable suspecting an offence and any instruments or things used in catching turtle or tortoises are forfeited.

Dominica.

There were twenty-two Ordinances passed by the Legislative Council of Dominica during 1927. The following deserve something more than passing notice :—

The Plants Protection Ordinance, No. 2 of 1927, provides for steps to be taken for the eradication of any disease or pest and provides that the occupier of land may be required totally to destroy any tree, shrub or herb. Compensation may be granted if it becomes necessary to destroy any healthy trees, shrubs or herbs.

The Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, No. 3 of 1927.—This Ordinance was passed in order to comply with the Dangerous Drugs Convention signed at Geneva in 1926, and forbids the cultivation of the poppy plant or of Indian hemp, and prevents the dealing in opium and other dangerous drugs except by licence and under severe restriction.

The Turtle Ordinance, No. 16 of 1927, creates a close season for turtle and tortoises, and makes it an offence to take turtle or tortoises in the close season.

The Wireless Telegraphy Ordinance, No. 17 of 1927, forbids the establishment of any wireless telegraph station unless under licence and forbids the working of any wireless telegraphy on board any foreign ship of war, or on board any ship, British or foreign, while in territorial waters, other than in accordance with the regulations in the Schedule to the Ordinance.

Two Ordinances, the Coastwise Traffic Ordinance, 1927, and the Passengers Ordinance, 1927, provide for safety at sea. The former, applicable to coastwise traffic only, enables the Governor in Council to provide for the examination of open boats or motor-boats in order to ascertain the number of persons and the amount of cargo which may safely be carried, and for imposing restrictions; also for prescribing the qualifications of persons performing the duties in connection with the working of the boats. The latter applies to all ships except motor-boats plying in harbours and bays in territorial waters, and all ships of His Majesty, or to any ship to which Part 3 of the Merchant Shipping Act of 1884 applies, or to steamships of 500 tons burden. The Ordinance limits the number of passengers which a ship may carry to one per ton and provides for life-saving appliances. Power is given for detaining any British ship registered in the Colony which there is reason to believe is unsafe.

The Fishery Ordinance, No. 20 of 1927, prohibits fishing in the territorial waters of the Presidency from any ship unless a British ship or licensed under the provisions of another Statute in force in the Presidency.

Montserrat.

Of twelve Ordinances passed during the year the following may be specially noticed :—

The Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, No. 2 of 1927.—This Ordinance was passed in order to comply with the Dangerous Drugs Convention signed at Geneva in 1926, and forbids the cultivation of the poppy plant or of Indian hemp, and prevents the dealing in opium and other dangerous drugs except by licence and under severe restriction.

The Safety Match Ordinance No. 4 of 1927. prohibits the manufacture, importation or sale after the 1st of July, 1927, of any matches other than safety matches, under a penalty not exceeding £50. "Safety match" is defined as a match igniting only on a specially-prepared surface.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

The Legislative Council of St. Kitts-Nevis passed eighteen Ordinances during the year, of which the following were the most important :—

The Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, No. 3 of 1927.—This Ordinance was passed in order to comply with the Dangerous Drugs Convention signed at Geneva in 1926, and forbids the cultivation of the poppy plant or of Indian hemp, and prevents the dealing in opium and other dangerous drugs except by licence and under severe restrictions.

The Customs Duty Ordinance, No. 6 of 1927, provides for giving effect to the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement of 1925, and consolidates the law relating to customs duties.

The Petroleum and Explosives Amendment Ordinance, No. 18 of 1927, prohibits the storing of volatile petroleum in any place but a Government Petroleum Warehouse, and provides for rules to be made by the Governor in Council in regard to the quantity which can be removed at any one time, and the quantity which may be stored at any one place, and generally in regard to protection from fire.

Virgin Islands.

Nine Ordinances were made by the Governor for the Presidency of the Virgin Islands, the most important of which are :—

Compulsory Vaccination Ordinance, No. 3 of 1927. imposes compulsory vaccination on every child under the age of 12 unvaccinated at the time of the passing of the Ordinance, and for every child born after the passing of the Ordinance, subject to safeguards in regard to the health of the child and provided that no humanised lymph shall be used. Power is given to the Board of Health to impose compulsory vaccination on the adult members of the population in case of an outbreak of smallpox.

The Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, No. 5 of 1927.—This Ordinance was passed in order to comply with the Dangerous Drugs Convention signed at Geneva in 1926, and forbids the cultivation of

the poppy plant or of Indian hemp, and prevents the dealing in opium and other dangerous drugs except by licence and under severe restriction.

Customs Duties Ordinance, No. 9 of 1927, provides for giving effect to the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement of 1925, and consolidates the law relating to customs duties.

IV.—EDUCATION.

Elementary.

The number of elementary schools in the Colony during the year under review was 104 distributed as follows:—

<i>Presidency.</i>	<i>Government.</i>	<i>State-aided.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1. Antigua	18	2	20
2. St. Kitts	16	2	18
Nevis	10	—	10
Anguilla	5	—	5
3. Dominica	24	4	28
4. Montserrat	—	13	13
5. Virgin Islands	—	10	10
			Total ... 104

The numbers enrolled and in average attendance were:—

<i>Whole Colony.</i>	1926-27.	1927-28.
Number on roll	24,944	24,823
Average attendance	15,823	15,947

The total expenditure in the primary schools, exclusive of salaries of the departmental officers and of establishment charges, was £17,673 13s. 1d. against £17,332 2s. 4d. in the previous year.

Secondary.

The following is a list of the secondary schools in the Colony with their respective grants or cost (in the case of Government schools).

<i>School.</i>	<i>Grant-in-Aid.</i>	<i>Cost (Government Schools).</i>
	£ s. d.	£
1. Antigua Grammar School	530 0 0	—
2. Antigua Girls' High School	200 0 0	—
3. Dominica Grammar School	—	687
4. St. Kitts-Nevis Grammar School	—	1,150
5. Excelsior School, Nevis	50 0 0	—
6. Thomas Oliver Robinson Memorial School, Antigua	50 0 0	—
7. Spring Gardens Female Teachers' Training College, Antigua ...	240 0 0	—

A Scholarship of £150 a year for three years, tenable at a University to be approved by the Governor, is awarded on the results of the Cambridge School Certificate Examination. The Scholarship is open to both boys and girls under 19 years of age.

The primary schools in Antigua, Dominica, and St. Kitts-Nevis are all under direct Government control, and are managed by a Sub-Inspector of Schools in each Presidency.

In Montserrat and the Virgin Islands they are, with one exception, denominational, and are managed by the clergy of the various denominations, under the general control of the Education Boards. The schools are examined annually by the Inspector of Schools, and grants are awarded on the results of this examination. The pupil-teacher system is in vogue, the period of service being three years. Studentships are awarded to specially-selected candidates, at the conclusion of their pupil teachership, for two years to complete their training as assistant teachers. Those for girls are held at the Spring Gardens Female Teachers' Training College, Antigua, and those for boys at the Rawle Training Institute, Codrington College, Barbados.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

There is a Central Lunatic Asylum at Skerrets, Antigua, and two Leper Homes in the Colony, one at Rat Island, Antigua, and the other at Fort Charles, St. Kitts.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Prisoners sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment are sent to the Common Prison of the Leeward Islands, in Antigua, and immediately before the expiration of their sentences are returned to the Presidencies from which they were committed.

Eighty-eight prisoners (44 males and 44 females) were admitted during the year. This is the lowest number of admissions on record. The highest number of prisoners in custody at any one time during the year was 63 (50 males and 13 females). The expenditure on the Central Prison was £2,028 11s. 10d., the receipts £178 6s. 11d.

The daily average number of prisoners was 55. The cost of the maintenance of each prisoner was £33 12s. 10d.

There were no deaths in the prison; but three male prisoners died in the hospital during the year.

The usual inquests were held, and a verdict of "natural causes" was delivered in each case.

Accommodation of the prison :—

Males :—

Separate cells	...	...	...	72 to hold	72
Association cells	...	...	...	7 to hold	35
Infirmary ward	...	...	...	1 to hold	9
Total for males					116

Females :—

Separate cells	...	...	...	20 to hold	20
Association cells	...	...	...	3 to hold	9
Infirmary ward	...	...	...	1 to hold	3
Total for females					32

Comparative table of Criminal Statistics for 1926 and 1927 :—

	1926.	1927.
Cases reported to the Police	6,906	6,650
Number of cases brought before the Magisterial Courts	15,419	16,173
Summary convictions	10,602	10,037
Indictments in the Superior Courts	85	81
Convictions in the Superior Courts	39	35

St. John's Training School.

The St. John's Training School was established under the provisions of the Leeward Islands Act No. 4 of 1891, for the reformation, education, and training of boys under 18 years of age.

On the 1st April, 1927, there were 19 boys at the school. During the year six boys were received. Thirteen boys were discharged during the year, leaving 12 in the school on the 31st March, 1928. The daily average was 18. The boys regularly attended the Anglican and Roman Catholic Church services, respectively, on Sunday mornings, and, in addition, the Anglican boys attended at the Cathedral, for religious instruction, on Sunday afternoons.

The boys received the customary instruction from the Schoolmaster; the school hours being from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily, except on Saturdays and Sundays.

The staff consists of the Superintendent, the Schoolmaster and two junior officers.

The expenditure was £349 15s. 8d., the cost per head to Antigua being £19 8s. 8d. The health of the school was good. The boys were employed in agricultural and garden work in addition to the ordinary work of the school.

VII.—POLICE.

The actual strength of the Force on the 31st December, 1927, was 6 officers and 139 non-commissioned officers and men. The authorised establishment as provided for in the Colonial Estimates for the different Presidencies was seven Officers and 147 non-commissioned officers and men. Dominica Division is much under-policed for its area, population, and the duties calling for discharge.

Inspector P. Ruane retired on pension in August, 1927, and Inspector K. M. Leighton was promoted to Southern Nigeria on the 25th October, 1927. Sub-Inspector O. St. A. Duke was promoted Inspector in the room of Captain Ruane, Mr. J. R. A. Branch and Mr. A. M. Bell were appointed Sub-Inspectors. Sub-Inspector S. A. McKinstry returned from leave of absence in England on the 4th July, 1927.

Colonel-Commandant A. Mudge, C.B., C.M.G., Inspector-General, West India Local Forces, inspected the local Forces during the year, and reported favourably on the Leeward Islands Police Force.

The health of all ranks during the year was, on the whole, satisfactory. There were no deaths.

VIII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The total population of the Colony, according to the census of 1921, was 122,242 showing a decrease of 4,951 when compared with the census of 1911.

Antigua.

In Antigua the estimated population on the 31st December, 1927, was 30,089. The number of marriages registered in the Presidency in 1927 was 142, as against 84 in 1926, while the births numbered 1,009, being 33.53 per thousand. The legitimate births were 235 and the illegitimate births 774, the percentages being 23.29 and 76.71, respectively. The deaths during the year numbered 705, which gives a death-rate of 23.43 per thousand. The deaths of children under one year, exclusive of 53 still-births, numbered 130 or 18.44 per cent. of the total.

St Kitts-Nevis.

The population of the Presidency at the end of the year was estimated to be 35,853.

An increase in St. Kitts-Nevis and Anguilla consequent on the excess of births over deaths is noted; but this increase, as far as St. Kitts is concerned, is altogether nullified by emigration.

In St. Kitts the excess of births over deaths, which amounted to 235, is counteracted by the effect of immigration and emigration, the latter exceeding the former by 274.

In Nevis immigration exceeded emigration by 4.

St. Kitts consequently shows a decrease of 39 in the total population, as compared with the estimated population at the close of the previous year.

The Nevis population shows an increase of 117, and the Anguilla population an increase of 60, as compared with the estimated population at the close of the previous year.

The total increase in the population of the Presidency is 138. An increase has not been noted for some years past. Emigration has usually nullified the natural increase resulting from excess of births over deaths.

The total number of births for the year was 1,263 (112 less than in the previous year) giving a birth-rate of 35.2 per thousand; and the total deaths were 855 (223 less than in the previous year) giving a death-rate of 23.5 per thousand, detailed as follows :—

Birth-rate.

St. Kitts, 44.5 per thousand, as against 47.2 in 1926.

Nevis 23.6 per thousand, as against 27.1 in 1926.

Anguilla 28.7 per thousand, as against 27.6 in 1926.

Death-rate.

St. Kitts 32.0 per thousand, as against 40.1 in 1926.

Nevis 14.4 per thousand, as against 17.7 in 1926.

Anguilla 15.8 per thousand, as against 17.4 in 1926.

The death-rate shows a considerable decline in the three islands of the Presidency, probably to be accounted for by the absence of any epidemic disease during the year.

Infantile Mortality, considered as the number of deaths of infants under one year of age to every thousand of living births, is shown below :—

							<i>Per cent.</i>
St. Kitts	...	...	...	...	...	...	18.04
Nevis	...	...	...	...	...	...	8.98
Anguilla	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.56

the total for the Presidency being 12.52 per cent. The number of still-births (102) was one more than the previous year.

Dominica.

The estimated population of Dominica at the end of 1927 was 41,051, as against 39,879 in 1926.

Births.—The births registered during the year numbered 1,341, as against 1,527 in 1926, giving a birth-rate of 32.66 per thousand of the population as against 38.29 per thousand in the previous year.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
The legitimate births were	322	267
The illegitimate births were	391	361

leaving an excess of illegitimate births over legitimate births of 163.

The percentage of legitimate and illegitimate births were 43.92 and 56.07 respectively.

In 1926 the illegitimate births exceeded the legitimate births by 325 (926 as against 601 or 60.64 and 39.36 per cent. respectively).

Marriages.—The number of marriages recorded in 1927 was 192. as against 440 in 1926, showing a decrease of 248. Of the 192 marriages recorded :—

180 were solemnized in the Roman Catholic Churches, seven were solemnized in the Wesleyan Church and five were solemnized in the Church of England.

Deaths.—The number of deaths registered during 1927 was 445 males and 500 females, making a total of 945 as against 973 in the previous year, a decrease of 28; and the death-rate per thousand of the estimated population was 23.00 as against 24.39 per thousand in 1926.

The excess of arrivals over departures was 776.

The majority of these were labourers who had left for Cuba in 1926 and who returned during the course of the year.

Montserrat.

The report on the vital statistics for Montserrat in 1927 shows a population of 11,916 on the 31st December, 1927; the births registered being 478, as against 417 in 1926, and showing a birth-rate of 40.11. The legitimate births were 128, the illegitimate 350, the percentage being 26.77 and 73.22 respectively. The deaths registered were 181, as against 167 in 1926, and the death-rate was 15.18 per thousand as against 14.23 per thousand in the previous year.

The marriages registered during the year under review were 50, showing a decrease of 2 over the figures for the year 1926.

The general health of the Colony during the year was satisfactory.

IX.—METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

Antigua.

The average annual rainfall registered for 67 stations was 45.84 inches. The average annual rainfall for 54 years has been 43.92 inches, so that the rainfall for the year 1927 was 1.92 inches above the average. The rainfall registered at the stations mentioned above varied from 66.04 inches to 24.91 inches.

December proved to be a somewhat dry month, which has somewhat militated against late planting.

The greatest rainfall in one hour was 1·81 inches on 28th October; and the lowest temperature 65° on 24th January, while the highest, 91° F., was registered on seven days in September.

There were two thunderstorms of minor importance, viz.; 13th and 22nd April.

There were no atmospheric disturbances of any importance and the usual hurricane season was happily passed with no incidents to record.

St. Kitts.

The rainfall at La Guerite was 60·48 inches for the year 1927.

Dominica.

The rainfall at the Botanic Gardens was 80·95 inches for the year 1927.

X.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

British and foreign mails are conveyed to Presidences other than the Virgin Islands by steamers of Messrs. Furness, Withy and Company, Limited, from New York; the Canadian Government National Steamships, Limited, from Halifax; the Ocean Dominion Steamships Corporation from Montreal; and the Ocean Dominion Line from New York.

In the Virgin Islands mails from Great Britain, etc., are forwarded via St. Thomas and are conveyed between St. Thomas and Tortola by a launch belonging to the Government, and by private boats.

There is a fortnightly service by sailing-boat between St Kitts and Anguilla.

There are wireless stations in Antigua, St. Kitts, Dominica and Montserrat, operated by the Pacific Cable Board.

Antigua, St. Kitts and Dominica are in telegraphic communication with each other, the other West Indian Colonies, and Europe and America, by the cables of the West Indian and Panama Telegraph Company.

There is no communication by telegraph with the Virgin Islands, but messages can be sent to that Presidency via St. Thomas. St. Kitts is in heliographic communication with Nevis.

XI.—CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

His Excellency the Honourable Sir Eustace Fiennes, Bart., Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Leeward Islands, was absent on leave from the 31st May to the 12th November, 1927, during which time His Honour Lieutenant-Colonel T. R. St. Johnston, C.M.G., Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis, acted as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Leeward Islands.

The Honourable E. W. Baynes, C.B.E., Colonial Secretary, was absent on leave from the 15th April to the 6th September, 1927, during which time Mr. E. D'A. Tibbitts, Assistant Colonial Secretary, acted as Colonial Secretary.

His Honour E. C. Eliot, Administrator of Dominica, was on leave from the 29th January to the 23rd February and from the 11th November, 1927, to the 10th April, 1928, during which time His Honour Major H. W. Peebles, D.S.O., O.B.E., Commissioner of Montserrat, acted as Administrator of Dominica.

His Honour Major H. W. Peebles, D.S.O., O.B.E., Commissioner of Montserrat, was on leave of absence from the 18th May to the 14th August, 1927, during which time the Honourable A. C. K. Tibbitts, Warden and Magistrate, District "H", Nevis, acted as Commissioner of Montserrat.

His Honour H. H. Trusted, Second Puisne Judge, assumed the duties of Attorney-General of the Leeward Islands on the 25th February, 1927.

His Honour Mr. Bernard H. A. F. Berlyn, the newly-appointed Second Puisne Judge, arrived in the Colony and assumed his duties on the 3rd November, 1927.

During the year under report the Civil Service of the Leeward Islands has been re-organised, and the clerical staff has been graded as follows :—

- Principals, £250—£10—£350.
- Senior Clerks, £200—£10—£250.
- Junior Clerks (men) £100—£10—£200.*
- Junior Clerks (women) £100—£10—£160.*
- Assistant Clerks (men) £65—£5—£90.
- Assistant Clerks (women) £60—£5—£90.

The policy of the Government has been to abolish all fees and extraneous payments for extra services, and to pay an inclusive salary for all duties which the officer may reasonably be called upon to perform.

Graded officers are liable to be transferred at the discretion of the Governor to any office or department as follows: Principals, in any part of the Leeward Islands; other grades within the Presidency to which they are attached.

The lower ranks of the Civil Service have also been graded as follows :—

- Chief Petty Officers, £90—£5—£120, with £10 allowance if no quarters are provided.
- Petty Officer, Class I. £65—£3—£80.
- Petty Officer, Class II. £45—£3—£60.
- Petty Officer, Class IIA, £45 fixed.
- Petty Officer, Class III, £30—£2—£42.
- Petty Officer, Class IV, £24 fixed.
- Petty Officer, Class V, £18 fixed.

* Efficiency bar at £150.

Petty Officers of Class II and upwards hold pensionable offices, and are governed by the provisions of the Pensions Acts of the Colony.

HONOURS.

The following Honours were conferred by His Majesty during the year :—

The Honourable S. W. Howes, Unofficial Member of the Executive Council of Montserrat, to be an Officer (Civil Division) of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

Mr. O. Nugent, to be a Member (Civil Division) of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

ANTIGUA.

Financial.

The revenue for the year 1927-28 amounted to £93,435 13s. 0½d. and the expenditure to £83,149 6s. 7d. The revenue therefore exceeded the expenditure by £10,286 6s. 5½d.

This large excess of revenue over expenditure not only cancelled the deficit of £6,137 brought forward at the 1st of April, but allowed a surplus of £4,149 6s. 5½d. to be carried forward at the 1st April, 1928.

The securities held by the Crown Agents at the end of the year as a reserve fund was as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Face Value	11,738	10	3
Cost	11,457	12	3
Market Value at 31.3.28	12,255	6	8

Revenue.

The revenue, estimated at £84,202, reached £93,435 13s. 0½d., thus showing an increase of £9,233 13s. 0½d. Of this increase the sums of £736 18s. 5d. and £352 5s. 2d. were reimbursements in aid from deposits on account of sales of Government lands and Rental Assessment Fund.

	£
The total revenue for 1927-28 was	93,436
The total revenue for 1926-27 was	81,283
The increase being	12,153

The various heads of revenue show, as compared with the previous year, the following increases and decreases :—

<i>Head.</i>	<i>Increases.</i>	<i>Decreases.</i>
	£	£
1. Customs	14,368	—
2. Port and Harbour Dues ...	—	825
3. Licences, etc.	—	992
3a. Municipal Rates	107	—
4. Fees of Court, etc.	—	1,402
5. Post Office, etc.	1,055	—
6. Rents	17	—
7. Interest	138	—
8. Miscellaneous	—	307
9. Land sales	—	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£15,685	£3,532
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Expenditure.

The expenditure for the year amounted to £83,149 6s. 7d., being £5,479 6s. 7d. more than estimated.

A considerable number of the Heads showed decreases, the largest being :—

<i>Head.</i>	£
1. Charges o/a. Public Debt	433
4. Island Secretary	213
10. Police	656
11. Prisons, etc.	215
13. Hospitals, etc.	722
16a. Municipal	6,123
28. Barbuda	2,996

The Heads showing the principal increases were :—

<i>Head.</i>	£
2. Pensions	845
5. Federal Contributions	819
22. Miscellaneous	775
24. Public Works Department	4,987
25. Public Works Recurrent... ..	4,162
26. Public Works Extraordinary	2,004

The increases under Heads 24 and 25 were chiefly due to the transfer of Head 16a, Municipal, to those Heads. The increase under Head 26 was caused by the erection of a new ward at the Central Lunatic Asylum and the improvement of Fort James.

Agricultural.

SUGAR.

From an agricultural standpoint the year 1927 was a most favourable one. The output of sugar was the largest since the central factories have been erected. This amounted to 23,195 tons. Of this the Antigua Sugar Factory, Limited, produced 19,794 tons at 9.2 tons of cane per ton of sugar, and the South Western Estates Company, Limited (Bendals Factory), 3,401 tons.

The price of sugar, too, was more satisfactory than the previous year, averaging £16 6s. 3d. per ton as compared with £13 14s. 11d. in 1926.

The following extract from the annual report of the Antigua Sugar Factory for the year 1927 is explanatory :—

“ The island had most favourable weather for the canes all through from the time of planting until the close of reaping. The rainfall for 1926 was 48 inches, well distributed, and at the beginning of the present year it was estimated that the Factory would have an output of about 16,000 tons sugar, which was higher than any previous record. But another 30 inches fell during the crop season, which did not hurt the canes, and it added nearly 25 per cent. to the estimated output, bringing the total up to 19,794 tons, or just double the average of the last seven years.

The sugar realised £16 6s. 3d. per ton f.o.b., which shows a satisfactory recovery from the low level of the last year.”

Very little muscovado was produced during 1927, only one factory operating, the sugar from which was consumed locally. The quantities of molasses and fancy syrup exported for the period in question were :—

	Gallons.
Vacuum Pan Molasses 	715,377
Muscovado and Fancy Syrup 	36,454

The railway line connecting the two vacuum pan factories—Antigua Sugar Factory and Bendals Sugar Factory (South Western Estates Company, Limited)—referred to in the report for 1925 was again not utilised during the current year.

COTTON.

The acreage under cotton was practically the same as in the previous year. Large quantities of paris green had to be used owing to frequent attacks of the cotton worm (*Alabama Sp.*). As usual, owing to the presence of the pink boll worm, no second picking was possible.

The total crop produced was 116,400 lb., of which 97,000 lb., valued at £9,276, was exported.

This yielded 310,400 lb. of cotton seed, of which 60,480 lb. were exported to Montserrat to be converted into refined cotton seed oil—the balance was converted into cotton seed meal for local use.

As mentioned in the previous year's report, the same arrangements were made with the cotton factory to purchase this seed cotton from peasants at a flat rate—this purchase being financed by the Antigua Cotton Growers' Association, which subsequently distributed a second and final payment to peasants after marketing it to the best advantage; this second payment amounted to over £200.

ONIONS.

As mentioned in last year's report, owing to the comparative smallness of the crop the onion-drying house—maintained by the Onion Growers' Association—was not used, growers shipping independently. The quantity shipped amounted to 66,500 lb. as compared with 46,750 lb. last year; of this amount the majority went to the United States of America.

LIME INDUSTRY.

The quantity of concentrated lime juice shipped during the year amounted to 5,250 gallons, as compared with 2,650 for the previous year. Eighty-one barrels of green limes were exported to Bermuda. In addition, 144 gallons of distilled lime oil, valued at £1,620, were shipped to the United States of America. There has been a general increase in the amounts exported of these products and the industry is gradually being extended. Considerable orders have been placed with the Agricultural Department for seedling plants.

COCONUTS.

There is little or no improvement to report in this industry from the estates point of view; the older trees are slowly recovering from the effects of severe dry weather in the past. 3,135 nuts were exported during the year in question, as compared with 4,200 in the previous year, but it must be noted that most of the locally-grown nuts went into local consumption, while a fairly large quantity are also imported into the Presidency for this purpose from Dominica.

Thanks to the generosity of Mr. T. B. Macaulay, President of the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, 3,000 nuts were germinated by the Agricultural Department and distributed free to peasants in the various districts and villages of the island, and it is proposed to distribute a further 2,000 in the coming year. In this way it is intended to furnish deserving peasants with a small supply of young plants so that they may benefit by this free distribution when the trees come into bearing.

OTHER AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

In a similar way, mango plants of stringless varieties and avocado pears have been distributed to the peasants free of cost with a view to the increasing of the local supply of better-class fruit.

The remaining agricultural products call for no special remarks. The area under pine-apples is slowly increasing, as also bananas.

The minor products exported include :—

	£
Hides and skins to the value of	314
Tamarinds (115,800 lb.)	309
Hardwood to the value of	40
Seedwork to the value of	15

This latter item is a typical example how changes in fashion may seriously affect an industry, which in this instance was confined to the peasantry.

It is of interest in this connection to compare the exports of this type of industry for the past three years, which were as follows :—

	£
1925 valued at	1,335
1926 valued at	391
1927 valued at	15

Exhibitions.

During the financial year 1927-28 a very successful exhibition was held on the grounds and premises of the St. John's Boys' School. The cost was comparatively small to the Government. A vote of £50 was provided and was supplemented by generous local donations. While somewhat smaller in number than in the previous year, the exhibits were of a higher standard and the general attendance was better. The entries for peasant cottage gardens and also cultivations were notably increased. This feature had been introduced by His Excellency the Governor, the Honourable Sir Eustace Fiennes, Bart., in the two previous exhibitions of February, 1926, and January, 1927. This increase in the number of competitors indicates that the peasants are taking an increased interest and pride in their cottage gardens and cultivations, and is a very satisfactory result. The type of vegetables and fruit marketed now is showing considerable improvement.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

The actual revenue for the year 1927-28 was £94,160 12s. 5½d.
The actual expenditure for the same year was £93,113 9s. 1½d.

Island of St. Kitts.

The installation of an electric light system for the town of Basseterre has been completed. The plant, consisting of three powerful and separate units, is housed in a large new concrete station in a central position occupying a portion of the market site. The completion of this long-desired necessity has helped materially towards improving living conditions in the slums as lights are being widely distributed. The opening up of certain congested areas of the town, and the construction of new streets through them, form part of the programme of work to be undertaken.

Many improvements have been made at the hospital, including the enlargement of the operating theatre and the establishment of special wards for tuberculosis cases.

At the Government Grammar School a large new Science Laboratory has been built, and a number of Scholarships have been given by private persons to enable certain deserving boys to take up agricultural science. At all Government institutions and schools, and at many private houses, water-flush sewage systems have been established.

A Municipal motor scavenging service has been started and has worked in a highly satisfactory manner throughout the year.

At Sandy Point, the second largest town, a public recreation ground has been provided for the people.

With the purchase of up-to-date road making machinery an improvement in the road system throughout the island has been initiated, and all macadamized motor-roads will in future be coated with a special preservative preparation.

Nevis.

In the island of Nevis water supplies have been brought down from mountain sources to Newcastle, Jessups, and Cotton Ground villages.

An infirmary for the aged poor has been established in the neighbourhood of the hospital, and electric light is now being installed in both institutions.

A War Memorial has been erected in the Public Garden to the north of the Court House; it takes the form of a stone obelisk, raised on a flight of steps, with an ornamental bronze tablet upon it.

Anquilla.

A telephone system has been installed. New roads have been constructed and the hospital has been provided with electric light.

At the close of the year 1927-28 the public debt stood at £26,791 11s. 5d.

The surplus on the 31st March amounted to £4,966 16s. 10d.

The value of imports for the calendar year 1927 totalled £329,418.

The value of exports totalled £353,405.

The total tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in 1927 exceeded the previous year by 370,950 tons.

An Ordinance relating to Customs Duties was passed during the year to give effect to the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement, 1925, and removes machinery, fuel oil and railway rolling stock from the free schedule.

The rainfall for the year 1927 was 60.48 inches, which was well distributed, and the cane crop reaped was the largest on record for many years. The total acreage planted in canes was 6,425 acres, and the canes reaped amounted to 165,000 tons. The total quantity of sugar made at the Basseterre Sugar Factory was 18,067 tons, which is 1,777 tons more than that made in 1926.

In Nevis the sugar industry is of minor importance. The greater part of the crop is grown by peasants, who make a part of it into muscovado sugar for local consumption and ship the balance by boat to the St. Kitts factory.

The Cotton Industry.—The total acreage planted in cotton during the year 1927 was about 3,000 acres. In St. Kitts the yield of lint per acre was somewhat below that of the previous year on account of serious damage done to the crop by the pink boll worm.

In Nevis the total acreage planted in cotton was about 1,500 acres, and the yield was better than it had been for some years past. The total quantity of cotton produced was 160,000 lb. of lint; being an average of about 106 lb. per acre.

Owing to the present unsatisfactory condition of the Sea Island cotton market the acreage under cotton is likely to be considerably reduced during the coming season.

Coconuts.—The coconut plantations in Nevis are recovering from the effects of the 1924 hurricane. The total number of nuts produced on the Pinney's plantation was 263,000, which is much in excess of the number produced last year. The other plantations are also doing fairly well, and the acreage under coconuts was slightly increased during the year.

Live Stock.—The raising of live stock is becoming an industry of some importance to the island of Nevis, and large areas are now devoted to the raising of cattle and mules.

Fruits and Vegetables.—Efforts are being made to interest the peasants in Nevis in the growing of fruits and vegetables for the Canadian market.

The health of the Presidency has not been disturbed by any epidemic during the year.

The birth-rate exceeded the death-rate 11.0 per thousand.

The population decreased by 270 owing to emigration.

The infantile mortality for the year was 125.2 per thousand for the whole Presidency. The Baby Saving League—mainly supported by Government Grant-in-Aid—has continued its functions throughout the year.

The campaign against venereal disease and yaws has continued its work. In addition to the cases treated in hospitals, 6,591 injections were given.

The treatment of inmates of the Leper Home with chaulmoogra oil has been maintained and five more inmates have been discharged on parole during the year. The treatment of "early cases" not segregated in the Home has made satisfactory progress.

DOMINICA.

The financial year 1927-28 opened with a deficit of £10,426. The revenue was estimated at £56,408, but the actual revenue received was £60,314, the estimate having been exceeded by £3,906, and the revenue for 1926-27 having been exceeded by £2,481.

A sum of £1,000, which was allocated by the Imperial Government in anticipation of the execution of certain public works, was not brought to account as revenue as the works in question were not completed before the end of the financial year, and the amount was not required, the ordinary revenue being sufficient to meet such expenditure as was incurred.

The principal increases in revenue were Imports £1,200, Excise Duty £1,900 and Income Tax £400. The increase in the revenue reflected a general revival in trade, which put more money in circulation and increased the purchasing power of the population.

Imperial assistance during the year amounted to £8,500, £6,000 being for Grants (Peasants' Information Bureau, etc.) and Loans (£2,500). This was in addition to unexpended balances brought forward from previous years, the total expenditure from the Imperial Grant being £20,226, £6,990 being for Grants and £13,236 being for Agricultural Loans. Expenditure under Grants includes the expenses of the sanitary campaign which is being carried out under the auspices of the Imperial Government, the actual expenditure under this Head during the year being £3,845.

The expenditure for the year was estimated at £58,617, and the actual expenditure was £60,489, being £1,872 in excess of the estimate, and £4,338 in excess of the expenditure for the year 1926-27.

The principal increases in expenditure were: Investments Depreciation Account £1,154 (due to sale of certain investments), Transport £424, Representation of Presidency at Canadian National Exhibition £268, Carnival Disturbances £468, Storm Damage £989 and Reconstruction of Goodwill Bridge £654.

In spite of the large increase in the revenue, the financial year closed with a small deficit of £175 in consequence of the excesses in expenditure mentioned above.

The £1,000 referred to already remains in the hands of the Crown Agents to the credit of the Presidency and is available to defray a proportion of any further deficit.

The following is a tabular statement of the value of the imports and exports during the last five years :—

IMPORTS.

1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
£150,955.	£143,579.	£146,204.	£164,884.	£168,630.

EXPORTS.

1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
£122,668.	£171,257.	£125,596.	£145,871.	£155,806

It will be seen from the above table that there has been a steady increase in the trade of the Presidency during the last few years. It may be mentioned that, as regards the figures for exports in 1924, there was a considerable carry over of the 1923 crop in that year which caused the total exports for the year to appear somewhat abnormal.

The Presidency at present has no reserve fund, it having been realized to meet deficits.

The financial year 1927-28 closed with a total deficit of £10,601, which represents accumulated annual deficits during previous years together with the deficit of £175 in 1927-28.

Agricultural.

THE LIME INDUSTRY.

The export figures for limes and lime products during the year 1927 show a drop of 4,000 barrels over those of the previous year. This is mainly accounted for by the unfavourable weather experienced throughout the year, but more especially during the flowering periods, and also to an outbreak of root disease. The value of the lime products grown show an increase owing to the high prices realised. There is an exceptionally heavy flowering of the trees at the present time.

Ripe limes realised up to 10s. per barrel, and green limes up to 31s. per barrel. Lime oils also remained high, expressed realising up to 34s. per lb., and distilled 24s. per lb.

The crop shipped since 1919, calculated in barrels of fruit and expressed in round numbers, is recorded below :—

1919	402,000	} Prior to appearance of withertip.
1920	369,000	
1921	516,000	
1922	400,000	
1923	228,000	
1924	424,000	(Owing to "carry over" from previous year.)
1925	230,000	
1926	214,000	
1927	210,000	

The following table calculated on the usual basis shows the disposal of the crop under various heads :—

<i>Product.</i>	<i>Barrels of fruit.</i>	<i>Approximate percentage of total crop.</i>
Concentrated juice	160,456	76.3
Raw juice	23,179	11.0
Fresh limes	21,577	10.2
Pickled limes	263	.12
Lime-juice cordial	4,647	2.2

The exports of products of the lime industry during 1927 is recorded below :—

<i>Product.</i>	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
		£
Concentrated lime juice	106,971 gallons	22,269
Raw lime juice	173,848 gallons	7,244
Lime-juice cordial	845 gallons	127
Fresh limes	21,577 barrels	15,931
Pickled limes	263 barrels	553
Essential oil (distilled)	31,346 lb.	36,049
Otto of limes (hand- pressed or ecuelled) ...	7,828 lb.	13,308
		<hr/> £95,481 <hr/>

FRUIT INDUSTRY.

With the improved steamship facilities between the West Indies and Canada the future of the fruit trade is much brighter. The excellent reports received on fruit sent to the Imperial Fruit Show, Manchester, has been the means of creating a good deal of activity amongst the planting community, and the Agricultural Department has been inundated with orders for budded plants of selected varieties.

BANANAS.

It is unfortunate that the Swift Banana Company which has undertaken to establish buying stations at suitable places throughout the Presidency and to provide a fortnightly steamship service decided in February to suspend operations in the West Indies.

The local Company had been put to some expense in acquiring land, but fortunately had not commenced planting operations. Considerable planting had, however, been done by the peasantry and the news of the Company suspending operations created a feeling of depression.

COCONUTS.

Interest in the cultivation of this crop is steadily increasing and there has been a steady demand for planting material throughout the year.

The export of copra over that of the previous year has again increased by 31,356 lb., and there is every indication that there will be a substantial increase during the present year.

COCOA.

Better prices obtained for cocoa have induced growers to pay more attention to their cultivation. There has been a considerable increase in the export figures.

COFFEE.

More interest is being taken in this crop, and the number of plants distributed by the Department during the year is considerable. The Arabian type is being taken up on plantations, the Robusta type being practically confined to peasant cultivation.

NUTMEG.

The demand for plants still persists and there are now a good many acres planted in the Island.

General.

A large number of planters have been assisted during the year by the Loan Board with the funds placed at its disposal by the Imperial Government.

This release of funds by the Board and the steady high price for essential oils tended to improve the general economic condition of the Island and accounted for an increase in revenue over that estimated for the year 1927-28 of about £3,900.

As a result of the grant from His Majesty's Government for sanitary purposes, the Health Department was inaugurated early in the year. Dr. A. G. Carment was appointed by the Imperial Government as Medical Officer of Health and Mr. James Jack as

his Sanitary Inspector. Many improvements have been effected in the general health and sanitary conditions of the Island, and work under this head is steadily progressing.

Mr. F. C. Clarkson, Colonial Engineer of Dominica, having been appointed Commissioner of the Virgin Islands, Captain E. C. Patrickson was sent out to succeed him. Captain Patrickson assumed duty on the 19th August, 1927.

A severe storm occurred on the 22nd of May, 1927, and serious damage was done by the flooding of the Roseau River to the retaining and protection walls, and to bridges. Among the most important of these was the Goodwill Bridge. The approaches to both the Import and Bell jetties were carried away by the heavy seas during this disturbance.

A coastal service was started in October, 1927. This was made possible by a grant from the Imperial Government for that purpose as an outcome of one of the recommendations of Sir Francis Watts. The service is carried out by the auxiliary schooner "Mermaid C", the owners of which receive a subsidy from the Government.

An Infant Welfare Committee was formed in the Northern District under the chairmanship of the Warden, who with the assistance of the Medical Officers is doing good work.

A useful addition was made to the Dominica Infirmary in the form of a new ward as a result of a generous donation from Mr. T. B. Macaulay of Canada. This is called the Macaulay Ward.

During the course of the year Dominica was visited by many officers of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, including Professor H. A. Ballou, B.Sc., Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies; Mr. G. Evans, M.A., C.I.E., Principal of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture; and Professor H. R. Briton-Jones, D.F.C., T.H.D., (London) D.I.C., A.R.C.S., Mycologist and Bacteriologist.

The planting community of the Island greatly appreciated the visits of these gentlemen.

In November, 1927, His Honour E. C. Eliot, Esquire, Administrator, proceeded to England on leave. During his absence the Government was administered by His Honour Major H. W. Peebles, D.S.O., O.B.E., Commissioner of Montserrat.

MONTSERRAT.

General.

His Excellency the Governor visited the Presidency on the 9th March, 1928, arriving on H.M.S. "Colombo", and opened the annual Agricultural and Horticultural Exhibition which was largely attended and was a great success.

The Montserrat Grammar School was opened on the 23rd January, 1928. The school opened with 26 pupils. The education is secondary and the Institution, which is under Government control, meets a long-felt need.

The administrative policy during this year has been one of economy compatible with efficiency, advantage being taken of a surplus of revenue to extend and consolidate works of public welfare on a small scale.

Finance.

The revenue for the financial year	£	£
1927-28 was	22,426	
and the expenditure	19,986	
	<hr/>	
showing a surplus of	2,440	
which, added to the surplus brought forward from previous years, of ...		2,759
	<hr/>	
totals a gross surplus of		5,199
	<hr/>	

Figures for the preceding five years are :—

<i>Revenue.</i>				<i>Expenditure.</i>			
£ s. d.				£ s. d.			
1922-23	...	...	17,101 17 11	24,266	16	2	
1923-24	...	...	23,683 18 9	19,653	7	8	
1924-25	...	...	17,168 6 7½	24,052	17	1	
1925-26	...	...	21,370 16 2½	21,039	11	10	
1926-27	...	...	22,687 13 4½	21,140	3	11	

The excess of assets on the 31st March, 1928, was £5,199 3s. 8½d.
The public debt stands at £14,100, made up of :—

	£
Water Works Loan	1,100
Public Works Loan	10,000
Wireless Station Loan	3,000
	<hr/>
	£14,100
	<hr/>

Sinking funds for the various loans are : —

	£	s. d.
Water Works Loan, 1883	1,150	15 4
Public Works Loan, 1893	6,700	6 11
Wireless Station Loan, 1924-25	472	5 11
	<hr/>	
	£8,323	8 2
	<hr/>	

Production.

The year 1927 proved a most successful one from an agricultural point of view. The main crop of the Island gave record yields, surpassing all previous yields in the Island's history. The main industry, cotton, was again the Island's mainstay, 666,000 lb. of lint being shipped. This represents the satisfactory yield of 222lb. of lint per acre. The onion crop also proved a record

one—447,602 lb. of onions were shipped. Other crops of importance which showed increased production during the year were limes, sugar, papain. Bay oil again suffered from poor market conditions. To sum up, the total exports of the Island showed a substantial increase from £50,576 in 1926 to £68,753 in 1927.

The principal exports of this Island, and chief and minor industries for the past five years are as follows :—

	1923.		1924.		1925.		1926.		1927.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£		£		£		£
Cotton Lint (lb.)	488,295	48,285	477,775	47,183	342,863	38,918	377,294	39,097	665,118	50,527
Onions ... (lb.)	132,139	767	110,286	1,118	158,789	1,436	304,562	2,435	147,602	6,663
Time products (gals.)	57,560	4,980	41,216	3,118	7,057	565	84,594	2,086	34,047	1,720
Papain ... (lb.)	538	444	599	424	541	379	1,696	1,106	1,243	877
Sugar ... (tons)	140	2,521	86	513	1½	15	47,960	411	61½	1,222
Bay Oil ... (gals.)	285	1,455	141	705	123	615	104	325	67	53

The Reforestation of Lands Ordinance, 1927 (Montserrat, No. 10 of 1927), was passed to preserve the existing growths of vegetation on the slopes of the high hills and provide for re-forestation of areas which may be denuded by any cause. It prohibits the cutting of timber and burning of charcoal within any "Forest Reserve" without licence and constitutes a "Forestry Board" for the purposes of its enactments, one of which empowers the Board to prescribe an "Arbor Day" or "Days" for the planting of trees.

Fish of excellent quality frequent the waters of the Island but the industry could be increased as the demand exceeds the supply.

Trade and Economics.

The imports for 1927 amounted to £63,402, and the exports to £68,753, showing an increase of exports over imports of £5,351.

The imports showed a decrease of £1,547 as compared with 1926, which was due to smaller importations of flour consequent on the breadfruits and vegetables being re-established since their destruction by the 1924 hurricane. The exports showed an increase of £6,040 over those of 1926, due to the large export of Sea Island cotton lint (665,135 lb.), the largest on record.

The comparative statements of imports and exports for the last three years show the trend of trade in the principal imports and exports.

Communications.

Regular steamship services are fortnightly, by the Canadian National Steamship Line, to the neighbouring English islands and Canada. Sailing sloops trade to the nearest sister Presidencies.

A wireless station operated by the Pacific Cable Board connects with all the other West Indian Islands, with Barbados as the distributing centre.

The telephone installation is a double wire, metallic circuit system.

The roads are kept in good repair. They are liable to heavy washes in the rainy season, which causes the cost of their repair to be heavy. The configuration of the land is not suitable to heavy transport service other than on the main roads, and produce from the far districts is conveyed to town by boat. No railways exist.

The inland postal service was re-organized in 1926 when three sub-post offices were established in the country districts.

Justice, Police, Prisons.

A Magistrate's Court is held twice a week and the Supreme Court of the Colony decides appeals from this and settles cases of serious crime three times a year. A Court of Summary Jurisdiction is appointed periodically. No unusual cases of crime occurred and general peace and good order were maintained.

A Division of the Leeward Islands Police is stationed in the Presidency, at present under a Sergeant Major. The health of the men is good and the discipline is excellent.

Short-term prisoners are kept in the local jail; sentences of over six months are served at the Central Prison at Antigua.

The health of the prisoners was good during the year, and no serious breaches of the Prison Regulations were committed.

Public Works.

The public buildings have all been kept in general repair. The water works required constant attention owing to landslides in the mountains where the pipe lines run to their sources. Supplies were extended to three important villages.

A building was leased and fitted up by the Department for use as a Grammar School.

Public Health.

General health conditions were good during 1927. A feature was the small number of typhoid fever cases. The death-rate was 15.18 per 1,000 from all causes, and this is to be considered as a low figure considering local conditions.

The town of Plymouth was kept in a clean condition and no cases of typhoid occurred in the town limits.

Education.

All education has hitherto been elementary; the schools being undertaken by the various Denominations with Grants-in-Aid from Government. The Grammar School now provides secondary education at very reasonable charges.

Lands and Survey.

The soil of the Island is suited to Sea Island cotton production, giving excellent yields with average manuring.

There are no Crown lands, the various hills and peaks being attached to the estates lying along their slopes. Uncultivated land is not sufficiently extensive and accessible to merit further development.

Labour.

Labour is sometimes scarce, the peasants being attracted to other places where wages are higher, although living conditions are easier for the labourer in the Island.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

The prosperity of the Presidency was well maintained despite the unsatisfactory state of the Agricultural Department and the decrease in the number of horses and cattle exported.

Captain Hassel paid two visits to Tortola during the year but his purchases were small; he reports the demand for horses and mules is decreasing each year, due to the increased use of motor vehicles in all the islands.

It is expected that the Customs duties will reach the estimated figure. The new Customs Tariff has not been in operation long enough to show any marked change. Sale of stamps shows a considerable increase over the estimated figure. The value of exports and imports during the calendar year amounted to £12,480 and £28,650 respectively, and the total tonnage of shipping was 17,182.

Public Works Extraordinary.

No new work of any magnitude was undertaken during the year. The exceptionally heavy rains caused considerable damage to roads, bridges, etc., throughout the Presidency but repairs were carried out at small cost.

Medical.

The general health of the Presidency during the year was good. Very little sickness was reported. The Tortola Cottage Hospital continues to be well patronised and is growing in popularity. A Dispensary opened in Anegada at the instigation of His Excellency the Governor is much appreciated by the inhabitants of that remote island.

Agricultural.

The weather during 1927 was exceptionally good. The rainfall measured 63.63 inches and was well distributed. Fruit and vegetables were plentiful, consequently prices were low. Owing to the poor demand for Sea Island cotton very little was planted by the peasants. The Botanic Station planted some three acres to keep this industry alive.

A party of Spaniards from Porto Rico planted 16 acres of cigar tobacco with excellent results. It is their intention to plant next season 100 acres or more if they are able to procure suitable land. Experiments are being carried out at the Station with pipe tobacco of the bright Virginia type for export to the United Kingdom.

Educational.

The number of children on the school registers in 1927 was 1,274 and the average attendance 777, which is a slight increase on the previous year.

The Grant for Education in 1927 was £621, an increase of £367 on the year 1917, ten years ago.

There were 20 prosecutions, with fines totalling £2 11s. 0d., for non-attendance under the Education Act, 1925.

School gardens were maintained at all schools but one. The annual examination of the schools was held in May when the Federal Inspector of Schools visited the Presidency.

The annual school sports in which all the schools join take place each year on Empire Day.

Owing to a mild outbreak of whooping-cough in the west end of Tortola, the school in that district was closed by order of the Medical Officer for a short period during the year.

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Situation and Area.

The Seychelles Islands are situated between the parallels of S. latitude 4° and 5°; the estimated total number of square miles comprised in the group and in the dependencies of Seychelles is 156½. The number of islands under the Seychelles Government is 92.

Mahé is the largest and most populous island and is distant from Mauritius 934, from Madagascar 600, and from Zanzibar 970 miles. It is mountainous, fertile, and has an area of about 55 square miles.

The other chief islands within a radius of 60 miles from Mahé are Praslin (9,700 acres); Silhouette (4,900 acres); La Digue (2,500 acres); Curieuse (900 acres); Félicité (800 acres); North Island (525 acres); Ste. Anne (500 acres); Frigate (500 acres); Denis (340 acres); Cerf (290 acres) and Bird or Sea Cow Island (160 acres).

The following islands are also dependencies of Seychelles:—The Amirantes, Alphonse Island, Bijoutier Island, St. François Island, St. Pierre Island, Providence, the Cosmoledo Group, Astove Island, Assumption Island, Coëtivy, the Farquhar Islands and the Aldabra Islands.

History.

The islands are believed to have been discovered by a Portuguese named Pedro Mascaregnas, 1505, but the discovery was not apparently followed by any attempt at colonisation.

Previous to the French occupation they were the resort of pirates who infested the Indian Ocean, some of whose names are borne by descendants in Mahé at the present time.

Under the Government at Mauritius of Labourdonnais, whose name they originally bore, their position was first defined in 1743, and M. Picault, who took possession of the islands in the name of the King of France, called the principal island Mahé. Later on the group was retained the Seychelles Islands, in honour of the Vicomte Moreau des Séchelles, who was Controller-General of Finance under Louis XV., from 1754 to 1756.

During the war of the French Revolution Mahé was extremely useful to French ships, as a place of refuge and refitment, but on the 17th May, 1794, it was captured by Captain Newcome of His Majesty's Ship *Orpheus*.

The last French Governor, Mr. de Quincy, who was born at Paris in November, 1748, became (after the departure of Lieutenant Sullivan, R.M., who had been placed in charge) the first Agent Civil under the British Government. Mr. de Quincy's reign as French Governor lasted 20 years. He remained for 18 years in the service of the British Government, and died on the 10th July, 1827.

The capitulation was renewed in 1806, but it was not until the capture of Mauritius in 1810 that Seychelles was formally taken possession of by the appointment of an Agent, and incorporated as a dependency of that Colony. A board of Civil Commissioners was appointed in 1872, when the finances of the Seychelles were separated from those of Mauritius.

In 1897, the Administrator was given full powers as Governor, and Seychelles was practically separated from Mauritius. The separation was completely carried out in 1903, when Seychelles was constituted a separate Colony under its own Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

Climate.

Although almost on the Equator, the climate of Seychelles is quite healthy, and, owing to the absence of the anopheline mosquito, malaria does not occur.

The maximum shade temperature rarely exceeds 86° F., but even at night the temperature seldom falls below 74° F. Thus during the whole year the temperature only varies over a range of about 12° F.

The hottest weather occurs during the months of March and April, but, though the difference in temperature is only slight,

living in a climate where the temperature is almost constant makes one very susceptible to changes of temperature of only a few degrees.

The rainfall averages about 90 inches, although in some years it has reached 115 inches. The heaviest rains occur in December and January, though showers are frequent throughout the year. The Colony is free from the cyclones which do so much damage to crops in the southern portion of the Indian Ocean.

Population.

The population of the Colony on the 31st December, 1927, was estimated at 26,835, an increase of 2,312 since the census of 1921.

There were 208 marriages, or 22 more than in 1926.

The births in 1927 numbered 759, which corresponds to a rate of 28.28 per 1,000.

The deaths amounted to 426, or 15.87 per thousand.

Government Finance.

The total revenue collected amounted to Rs.736,885, an increase as compared with 1926 of Rs.74,344. Customs revenue produced Rs.339,324 compared with Rs.285,921 the previous year.

The expenditure totalled Rs.663,266.

The total value of the trade of the Colony showed a slight decrease as compared with the previous year.

The following is a statement of revenue and expenditure for the last four years :—

<i>Year.</i>					<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
					<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>
1924	...	...	...	...	755,758	659,452
1925	...	...	...	...	770,761	651,914
1926	...	...	...	...	662,541	713,692
1927	...	...	...	...	736,885	663,266

The assets of the Colony on the 31st December, 1927, exceeded the liabilities by Rs.630,670.

The investments of the Colony were as follows :—

				<i>Rs.</i>
On account of General Revenue	...	...	...	267,921
On account of Savings Bank	...	...	...	95,661

Public Debt.

The balance remaining due to the Imperial Treasury on account of the loan of £20,000 made to Seychelles in 1900 for road making was £2,804 17s. 6d. There is also a balance of Rs.15,000 still owing to Mauritius out of the sum of Rs.50,000 borrowed in 1920

for the purpose of building an auxiliary ketch. Provision has been made in the 1928 Estimates for the repayment of the balance due.

Savings Bank.

The balance standing to the credit of depositors on the 31st December, 1927, was Rs.192,356, a decrease of Rs.34,789 compared with 1926.

Trade, Agriculture, and Industries.

The total value of the trade of the Colony (exclusive of imported specie) was Rs.3,960,171, as compared with Rs.4,063,478 in 1926.

IMPORTS.

The total value of the imports (exclusive of specie) was Rs.1,804,710, compared with Rs.1,692,547 in 1926. The imports from the United Kingdom show an increase of Rs.12,543, the imports from India show an increase of Rs.7,184, and the imports from French possessions show an increase of Rs.27,234 as compared with 1926.

EXPORTS.

The total exports were valued at Rs.2,159,918, compared with Rs.2,376,031 in 1926. The exports to the United Kingdom showed a decrease of Rs.416,817.

The principal countries to which produce was exported were the following :—

					Rs.
United Kingdom	...	...	...	...	476,964
British Possessions	...	...	...	...	812,313
France	...	...	...	...	244,781

AGRICULTURE.

The Coconut Industry.—This is the most important of the Colony's industries.

The total export of copra during the year amounted to 4,628½ tons, as compared with 5,461½ tons in 1926. Only about 12,500 coconuts were exported during the year under review as compared with 83,900 the previous year. Coconuts sold locally during the year at a price of about Rs.40 to Rs.48 per thousand, while copra averaged about Rs.350 per ton.

Essential Oils.—After the copra industry, the distillation of essential oils holds the place of next importance in the Colony's industries.

The distillation of cinnamon oil was continued energetically and increasing interest has been shown in the distillation of patchouli, basilic, lemon grass and clove oil.

The total export of essential oils of all kinds amounted to 60,366 litres, valued at Rs.397,543.

The export in 1926 amounted to 46,334 litres.

Vanilla.—The total export of vanilla during the year amounted to 3,245 kilos, valued at Rs.28,588, as compared with 551 kilos valued at Rs.4,568 in 1926.

Rubber.—The total export of rubber during the year amounted to 9,694 kilos, as compared with 7,394 kilos in 1926.

FISHERIES AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

The majority of the natives of the Colony are born sailors, and the number who fish to earn a living is therefore considerable. Fish and turtle are very plentiful, but the number of the latter is said to be diminishing. The question of introducing some form of close season for these reptiles is engaging the attention of the Government.

Turtles are brought to Mahé from the outlying islands by small coasting boats of from 20 to 90 tons. On arrival in Victoria they are kept in turtle ponds until required.

In connection with the fishing industry the following exports were made during the year :—

	Kilos.	Declared value. Rs.
Tortoise shell	1,171	44,690
Green turtle shell	898	355
Turtle strips	997	547
Calipee	5,023	4,074
Salt fish	6,230	2,214
Trepangs	7,176	10,314

The export of guano during the year amounted to 11,329 tons. the declared value being Rs.287,000.

Legislation.

Nine Ordinances were passed by the Legislature during the year. The principal Ordinances were :—

No. 1.—“ An Ordinance to amend the Income Tax Ordinance, 1923 (No. 7 of 1923).”

No. 4.—“ An Ordinance to amend the Loan to Planters Ordinance, 1904 (No. 4 of 1904).”

No. 5.—“ An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the law relating to Mortgages and their inscription and to the registration and transcription of Deeds and other documents.”

No. 7.—“ An Ordinance to give effect to the measures decided upon in the second International Opium Convention signed at Geneva on the 19th February, 1925, and to regulate the importation into, and the storage and disposal of opium, morphine, cocaine or similar drugs in the Colony.”

Education.

Education is not compulsory.

There are twenty-six Grant-in-Aid schools at which free elementary education is given. Twenty-one of these schools are Roman Catholic, attended by 2,014 children, with an average attendance of 1,487 ; the remaining five schools are Church of England, attended by 313 pupils, with an average attendance of 211.5.

The average attendance has decreased from 75.6 per cent. to 73.8 per cent. in the Roman Catholic schools, and in the Church of England schools from 75.4 per cent. to 67.5 per cent.

Apart from the twenty-six schools examined, there are two small schools which are not yet registered : one Roman Catholic, at Port Gland, with twenty-eight pupils ; and one Church of England, at Bel Ombre, with eighteen pupils. The latter was visited and it is regretted that the numbers do not justify its recognition as a grant-earning school.

With effect from the 1st January, 1924, the Government schools ceased to exist and a portion of the Victoria School building was handed over to the Church of England educational authorities, whilst the remainder of Victoria School and the Ashanti Camp School were handed over to the Roman Catholic Church. This change was brought about as the result of a joint scheme put forward by the Bishops of the two denominations. The Government still maintains an Inspector of Schools, whose duty it is to exercise a supervision over primary education throughout the Colony.

There are two secondary schools, one for boys and one for girls, with 206 and 162 pupils respectively ; fees are charged. At both schools candidates are prepared for the Cambridge Local examinations. There is also now in Victoria a small paying branch attached to St. Paul's Church of England school, with thirty pupils, boys and girls. Of these, two sat for the Cambridge Local and eight for the Higher Education of Girls examinations in December last. Twenty-four candidates were entered for the Cambridge Local examinations in 1927, of whom seven obtained a Preliminary and ten a Junior certificate. Thirty-four candidates were also offered for the Higher Education of Girls ; of these twenty-six passed.

As regards secondary education, Ordinance No. 6 of 1927, entitled " The Seychelles Scholarship Ordinance, 1927 " was passed in the Legislative Council on the 19th July, 1927. Under this Ordinance, a scholarship of the annual value, free of income tax, either of Rs.1,200 tenable for five years, or of Rs.1,500 tenable for four years, is awarded every alternate year to one scholar of Seychelles, to enable him to pursue his studies in any part of the British Empire outside Seychelles. The scholarship is awarded on

the results of the London University Matriculation Examination to the candidate who shall have passed in the First Division and who is recommended for the scholarship by the Examiners.

Government assistance is given in the shape of grants, exhibitions, and local scholarships. The total amount spent on education was Rs.28,984.21cts., of which Rs.20264 was a Grant-in-Aid to primary schools.

Communications.

Roads.—There are over 100 miles of roads and bridle-paths in the Colony. Only about 20 miles, however, are now suitable for motor traffic. Schemes for regrading roads are under consideration which will largely increase this mileage.

Mail and Postal Service.—The revenue of the Postal Department amounted to Rs.29,710 and the expenditure to Rs.28,658. The mail service during the year was good and mails were despatched on 51 occasions. The British India Company's steamers call on their voyage from Bombay to Mombasa once every four weeks and on their return journey once every eight weeks. Mails are also despatched by various cargo steamers which call at irregular intervals.

Parcels from Europe are received via Bombay, but parcels from Seychelles are despatched via Bombay or Mombasa.

Telegraph and Telephone.—The Eastern and South African Telegraph Company maintains a station at Victoria and gives a very satisfactory service. Seychelles is now an important cable junction, there being cables to Zanzibar, Mauritius, Aden, and Colombo. Telegraphic communication with the outside world was maintained throughout the year. There are no public telephones in the Colony; but a wireless telephone service was inaugurated in June, 1926, between Mahé, Praslin and La Digue. Although this service has not been entirely satisfactory from its inception, it is hoped that the difficulties will be quite overcome, in which case the question of extending it to other segregated localities may be considered.

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REPORT FOR 1927.

*(For Reports for 1925-26 and 1926-27 see Nos. 1331 and 1370,
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BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT, 1927.

PREFACE.

Historical and Geographical Note.

The Solomon Islands were first discovered in the year 1568 by Alvaro de Mendana while on a voyage of discovery from Peru. The Island of Ysabel was first sighted and Mendana bestowed the christian name of his wife upon the new discovery. In the year 1595 a second expedition under Mendana sailed from Peru, but this time the Solomon Islands were not located. Mendana, however, arrived in the Santa Cruz group and founded a settlement at Graciosa Bay. The new colony proved abortive and the settlement short-lived, for dissensions and insubordination among the members of the colony, sickness and conflicts with the natives, and the death of Mendana, put an end to any prospect of colonization and the remnants of the original party returned to Peru.

For some two hundred years the Solomon Islands were apparently untouched by Europeans but from 1767, when Captain Carteret rediscovered the Santa Cruz group and the north-west coast-line of Malaita, numbers of Europeans visited these islands. Gradually, Missionaries established themselves and mission societies were founded, the first being the French Mission Society of Saint Mary in the year 1845, and five years later the Melanesian Mission arrived. Later still, resident traders came and between the years 1860 and 1893 they increased in number.

A British Protectorate over the South Solomon Islands was declared in the year 1893, other islands being brought within the Protectorate during the years 1898 and 1900.

The Protectorate extends north-west and south-east for a distance of 900 miles, and north and south for a distance of 430 miles.

Language.

There is no universal native language in the Solomon Islands. Numerous dialects are spoken and it frequently happens that natives living in villages a few miles apart are unable to understand one another. There are very few parts of the Protectorate, however, where pidgin English is not spoken and understood by the natives.

Currency.

Imperial and Australian sterling coins are the sole legal metallic currency. Local currency notes are issued for sums of 5s., 10s., £1 and £5.

Weights and Measures.

The weights and measures in the Protectorate are the same as those of Great Britain.

I.—GENERAL.

In February, 1927, three native constables of Armed Constabulary and one other native were murdered by bush natives on the Island of Guadalcanal. The perpetrators of the outrage were arrested in due course and suffered the extreme penalty of the law.

In October, 1927, Mr. W. R. Bell, District Officer of Malaita, Mr. Cadet Lillies and thirteen native employees of the Government were murdered at Kwai'ambe, Sinarango, Malaita. The ring-leaders of this outrage and their followers were arrested and are being dealt with by law*.

During the year under review the membership of the Advisory Council was increased by two official members and one non-official member.

In medical matters activities have increased considerably during the year. In Tulagi the hospital has been enlarged to permit of more patients being accommodated. A Travelling Medical Officer, equipped with an auxiliary vessel, has been appointed and visits and treats natives in localities hitherto inaccessible.

In co-operation with the Rockefeller Foundation an energetic campaign against yaws has been planned and work will be commenced on the Island of Malaita at the beginning of 1928.

Schemes are under consideration whereby the Medical Officers of the Melanesian and Methodist Missions will work in co-operation with the Medical Department and closer touch with the native population will result.

A Medical School for the training of Native Medical Practitioners has been opened in Suva, Fiji, and natives of the Protectorate are eligible for admission as students to this school with a view to their eventually working among the natives in the Solomon Islands.

II.—FINANCE.

Revenue.

The total revenue of the Protectorate for the financial year ended 31st March, 1927, was £77,444 19s. as against £71,430 5s. 3d. for the previous financial year.

* *Note.*—The Report of the Commissioner appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to inquire into the circumstances in which these murderous attacks took place has been presented to Parliament as Cmd. 3248. (*January, 1929.*)

Expenditure.

The total expenditure was £63,740 12s. as against £60,330 3s. 3d. for the previous year.

The revenue and expenditure for the past five years has been as follows :—

Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1922-1923	56,741	0	3	52,472	16	7
1923-1924	64,329	15	8	52,655	12	7
1924-1925	64,091	6	9	65,409	2	1
1925-1926	71,430	5	3	60,330	3	3
1926-1927	77,444	19	0	63,740	12	0

There have been no changes in the method of raising revenue and the rates of taxation have not been altered. There is no loan.

III.—PRODUCTION.**Agriculture.**

With the exception of the copra industry there is no “agriculture” in the Solomon Islands.

Fisheries.

Bêche-de-mer, trocas and turtle shell are worked to a small extent. It cannot be claimed that the above-mentioned industries show any tendency towards increased production.

Forestry.

There is no “forestry” in the accepted sense in the Solomon Islands although various kinds of softwoods are worked and some have been shipped to Australia. There are no indications, however, that this export industry will be marked with any degree of success. At Vanikoro, in the Santa Cruz group, the Vanikoro Kauri Timber Company (Proprietary) Limited, are engaged in the exploitation of kauri pine. The neighbouring Island of Tevai, rich in kauri, is a Government reserve.

Mining.

King's Regulation No. VII of 1927, relating to prospecting for and mining metals and other minerals, was passed during the year under review. Up to date two miners' rights have been granted.

Exports.

A table showing the comparative amount of the annual exports of the principal commodities during the last five years is given below.

RETURN OF EXPORTS, 1922-23 TO 1926-27.

—	1922-23.		1923-24.		1924-25.		1925-26.		1926-27.	
	Quantity.	Value. £	Quantity.	Value. £	Quantity.	Value £	Quantity.	Value £	Quantity.	Value. £
Bêche de Mer ...	7 tons 16 cwt.	1,340	3½ tons	310	15½ tons	1,896	16 tons	2,727	26½ tons	7,512
Copra ...	16,711 tons	209,387	18,278 tons	273,563	16,508 tons	287,702	19,206 tons	369,283	22,316 tons	411,597
Black Lip Shell ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Green Snail Shell	8 tons	121	1 ton	17	15 tons	216	33 tons	619	22 tons	364
Mother Pearl Shell	—	—	—	—	¾ ton	88	—	—	—	—
Trocas Shell ...	526 tons	14,395	205 tons	5,251	334 tons	11,153	377 tons	21,245	260 tons	14,200
Turtle Shell ...	2 cwt.	115	3 cwt.	285	2½ cwt.	191	1½ cwt.	198	3 cwt.	297
Ivory Nuts ...	447 tons	3,493	474 tons	5,371	1,568 tons	23,421	1,380 tons	16,144	893 tons	12,158
Timber Logs ...	448,965 sq. ft.	2,836	324,465 sq. ft.	1,642	283,106 sq. ft.	4,818	526,876 sq. ft.	7,261	719,901 sq. ft.	5,750
Miscellaneous ...	—	12	—	130	—	1,726	—	1,341	—	116
Total value ...	£231,699		£286,569		£331,211		£418,818		£451,994	

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The State of Trade.

The value of imports has increased by £29,651, and the value of exports by £34,517.

The value of imports is not expected to increase materially in the near future.

The value of copra exported should increase yearly for the next five years, when the maximum output should be reached owing to the cessation of development due to lack of labour.

Character and nature of trade.

Australia supplies the greater portion of the total imports. The only regular steamship line trading with the Protectorate sails from ports in the Commonwealth.

Trade with the United Kingdom increased during the period under review by £6,998 and the increase in respect of other parts of the Empire was £14,706.

There would appear to be little prospect of any considerable increase in imports of British goods unless a preferential tariff were brought into force.

Most of the plantations import their requirements direct from Australia and there is practically no competition by local retailers.

A list of the principal imports, together with the country of their origin, follows:—

<i>Commodity.</i>	<i>Imports.</i>	<i>Country of origin.</i>
Kerosene	{ 75,396 gallons	United States
	{ 208 "	Borneo
Benzene	{ 78,987 "	United States
	{ 12,810 lbs. Avoir.	Australia
Tobacco	{ 585 "	United Kingdom
	{ 111,513 "	United States
Beer	{ 19,396 gallons	Australia
	{ 220 "	United Kingdom
	{ £5,122 "	Australia
Drapery	{ £2,489	China
	{ £10,909	United Kingdom
	{ £1,110	United States
	{ 686 tons	Burma
Rice	{ 106 "	China
	{ 778 "	India
	{ 330,313 super feet	Australia
Timber	{ 50,002 "	New Zealand
	{ 106,784 "	United States
	{ £3,459	Australia
Hardware	{ £3,161	United Kingdom
	{ £629	United States
	{ 356,285 lbs.	Australia
Meats	{ 116,687 "	New Zealand
	{ 163 "	United Kingdom
	{ 908 "	United States
Bags and Sacks	{ 35,949 dozen	India

The total exports have increased as follows :—

Bêche de Mer	...	...	...	10½ tons valued at £4,785
Copra	...	...	...	3,092 „ „ £42,314

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Shipping.

Steam communication is maintained between Australia and the Protectorate by means of Messrs Burns Philp and Company's mail steamers. The steamer calls direct from Australia every six weeks and, after proceeding through the group, returns to Australia. Messrs. Burns Philp receive an annual subsidy from the Commonwealth Government, to which subsidy the Protectorate Government contributes the annual sum of £3,000. In return the Protectorate receives certain abatements in cost of Government passages and freights. Since February, 1925, Messrs. Burns Philp and Company's steamer "Makambo" has been calling at Vanikoro, Santa Cruz, in connection with the Timber Company who are operating there. This service has, however, been temporarily discontinued. In addition, direct oversea shipments of copra are made in Norwegian and Swedish steamers.

Railways and Roads.

There are no railways or good roads. There are coral paths in Tulagi, and in most of the districts paths and tracks, varying in quality, link up villages and plantations. Internal communication is maintained by the regular mail steamers and occasionally by auxiliary vessels owned by traders and planters. The Government vessel "Ranadi" is available for inter-island and inter-port communication, and also the s.s. "Malanta," owned by Messrs. Burns Philp (South Sea) Company, Limited; the s.s. "Koonookarra," owned by Lever's Pacific Plantations, Limited; and the motor vessel "Duranbah," owned by Messrs. W. R. Carpenter (Solomon Islands), Limited.

Postal.

The postal service of the Protectorate, outside the regular itinerary of Messrs. Burns Philp and Company's mail steamers, is carried out in an intermittent fashion through chance auxiliary craft owned by traders and recruiters. The chief postal centres are Tulagi, Gizo, Faisi and Vanikoro. There is a Postmaster in Tulagi, and District Officers throughout the Protectorate act as Postmasters. A money-order service exists with the Commonwealth Government of Australia, through whose agency money can be remitted to various parts of the world. There is also a postal note service.

During the year under review eighteen mails were despatched oversea from Tulagi. The following are statistics of postal matter handled.

	<i>Inland.</i>	<i>Received.</i>	<i>Despatched.</i>
Prepaid letters	8,084	44,748	29,056
Unpaid letters	34	—	—
Printed and commercial papers, samples, etc.	—	45,674	1,855
Admitted free	300	244	400
Totals	8,418	90,666	31,311
Registered articles	117	2,376	1,009
Ordinary parcels	5	2,350	176

There is no submarine cable or telegraph system in the Protectorate. The Government wireless station maintains communication with the outer world. In addition there are two privately-owned wireless stations in the group—one at Kokegelo (Roviana) in the Gizo district, owned by the Methodist Mission, and the other at Vanikoro, in the Santa Cruz District, owned by the Vanikoro Kauri Timber Company. These two stations are sufficiently powerful to communicate with the outer world but, in accordance with the terms of their licences, all their traffic is routed via Tulagi.

A telephone system exists in Tulagi connecting up the various Government offices and certain private houses.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

The High Commissioner's Court consists of the High Commissioner, the Judicial Commissioners and the Deputy Commissioners, and in it is vested all His Majesty's civil and criminal jurisdiction in the British Solomon Islands Protectorate.

The Chief Justice of Fiji, and every other Judge for the time being of the Supreme Court of Fiji, is by virtue of his office a Judicial Commissioner.

Deputy Commissioners are appointed by the High Commissioner on behalf of His Majesty.

The Court of a Judicial Commissioner has powers similar to those of the superior Courts in England. The Deputy Commissioners have civil jurisdiction in Common Law, Equity and Bankruptcy, with a limited jurisdiction in Probate, and have a criminal jurisdiction in respect of offenders not punishable with seven years' penal servitude or upwards.

With some exceptions all decisions of the High Commissioner's Court may be appealed against to the Supreme Court of Fiji.

In addition to other means of preserving order the High Commissioner has certain special powers for the deportation of persons whose proceedings endanger the peace of the Protectorate.

The Police and Prisons Departments are administered by the Officer Commanding Armed Constabulary and Superintendent of Prisons. He is assisted by a European Sub-Inspector of Constabulary and a European Gaoler. The native personnel of the Armed Constabulary consists of a Sergeant-Major and 119 other ranks, and there are 11 native warders attached to the Gaol.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

No public works of other than local interest were undertaken during the year under review.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The year may be considered an average one from a health point of view.

Europeans.

The climate is unfavourable for Europeans on account of its humidity and constant heat. Malaria is prevalent and practically all residents suffer from attacks from time to time. Blackwater fever is not uncommon. Of nine deaths which occurred during the year two were due to malaria and two to blackwater fever. A number of cases of dengue also occurred during the year and dysentery is not uncommon.

Asiatics.

The health of the Chinese population was good. Two deaths only occurred, one being caused by pulmonary tuberculosis and the other by homicide. Four children were born during the year.

Natives.

There were two outbreaks of measles among the native population and the disease is still present. Great fear was felt at first as to the possible severity of the disease among the natives but the disease has proved mild and of minor importance. There is practically no mortality. An outbreak of varicella occurred in the Gizo district, with no mortality.

Apart from these epidemics no outstanding disease occurred. Yaws is practically a universal disease among the native population, infection usually taking place in childhood. Malaria is also everywhere and causes deaths among children and adults. Dysentery is endemic but there has been no serious epidemic for years. Of skin diseases, various types of ringworm are common. Tuberculosis is not uncommon and is one of the greatest causes of death, the disease usually running a very acute course in the native.

Of venereal diseases, gonorrhoea is comparatively infrequent and syphilis has not been recorded among the native population.

General.

Sanitation work in Tulagi has been carried out under the direction of the Sanitary Officer, efforts being mainly directed towards mosquito control. Government hospitals at Tulagi, Gizo, Su'u and Vanikoro have supplied free treatment to the native population. In those districts not provided with a Medical Officer, medicines are issued to missions and to reputable planters for distribution among the natives. The work of some of these persons cannot be too highly praised and a number of them are capable of giving injections for yaws. To these people are supplied Neo-arsphenamine as they require it, and the confidence in European medicine, resulting from its dramatic effects on yaws, is extremely valuable.

The Travelling Medical Officer, equipped with a vessel, visits various parts of the group treating natives.

IX.—EDUCATION.

Education is entirely in the hands of the various Mission bodies. For the financial year under review the sum of £300 was included in the estimates of expenditure for technical grants to Mission schools. The following grants were made in accordance with the amount of attention devoted to such education :—

	£
Melanesian Mission	25
South Sea Evangelical Mission	25
Seventh Day Adventist Mission	50
Methodist Mission	50

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

The Lands and Survey Department came into being in the year 1913 with the appointment of the present Commissioner of Lands and Crown Surveyor. A Government Surveyor was appointed to assist him in the year 1919 and still holds the post. Provision has been made for the appointment of a second surveyor, but it has been found very difficult to obtain the services of a suitable man. Several have been appointed but in every instance have resigned after a few months' work.

The only survey work performed in the Protectorate to date has been isolated surveys of alienated blocks. Where these blocks are in reasonably close proximity they are linked up by coastal traverse. Since 1921 the Lands Department has concentrated on

surveys in connection with the work of the Lands Commission, but a number of surveys are still outstanding. Owing to shortage of staff it was found impossible to perform any land survey work during the year under review.

Geological Survey.

During the year under review two geological surveys took place in the Protectorate. An expedition, under the generous auspices of the Colonial Research Committee, with a geologist supplied by the University of Sydney, visited Rennell Island for the purpose of investigating the possibility of phosphate deposits in that locality.

Another expedition was organized at Protectorate Government expense, the investigating officer being a member of the previous expedition. The islands of Owa Raha (Santa Anna) and Owa Riki (Santa Catalina), both in the Eastern Solomons District, were investigated.

The Reports on these reconnaissances are printed as appendices to this Report.

XI.—LABOUR.

The staple industry of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate is the cultivation of coconuts and their subsequent conversion into copra. The industry requires a high labour strength, about one unit to ten acres for estates of large size. On smaller estates the unit per acre figure is much higher. The entire labour supply is derived from indigenous natives, the bulk of whom are recruited from the island of Malaita. A native is eligible for employment as a labourer at the age of sixteen years, or as a light labourer, performing certain definitely scheduled classes of work, at the age of fourteen years. A system of contract is in vogue, the maximum term allowed by law being two years. Minimum wages are fixed by law at 20s. per mensem and 10s. per mensem for labourers and light labourers, respectively.

For the most part labourers are recruited at their homes by professional licensed recruiters who run licensed vessels.

The employer of a native labourer is required by law to feed, clothe, and house the labourer according to certain minimum scales, to provide him with medical attention, and repatriation to his home on the expiration of his term of contract. Should the labourer be accompanied by dependants, the employer is under a similar liability towards them. The interests of the labourer are watched by the Native Labour Department and comprehensive Regulations control the actions of employers and employees alike. The hours of work which a labourer may be called upon to perform

are controlled and a system of "task work" is in vogue, $5\frac{1}{2}$ tasks completing one week's work. On time work the labourer may be called upon to work nine hours per diem and on task work the task is such that it can be completed in six hours.

The average number of labourers employed throughout the group is approximately 6,000, distributed among 227 employers.

R. R. KANE,

*Resident Commissioner,
British Solomon Islands Protectorate.*

31st December, 1927.

APPENDIX A.

REPORT ON THE GEOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE OF RENNELL ISLAND, BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.

(By G. A. V. Stanley, B.Sc., Department of Geography,
University of Sydney.)

INTRODUCTION.

Interim Report.

Already an interim report has been prepared and presented to the Administration of the British Solomon Islands. In the present report the facts are now set forth in greater detail. But in addition there is included a good deal of matter which is not primarily concerned with the main object of the expedition, but which was gathered during the course of the work and which is of some administrative and general interest.

Objects of the expedition.

With regard to the main objects of the survey, namely, the investigation of the possibility of phosphate deposits being discovered at Rennell Island, there is little to add to the interim report. Analysis of two samples of limestone selected from the specimens brought back confirmed the indications of the field tests that the percentage of phosphate material is very much too low to be of the slightest commercial importance. The analyses were made in the Department of Chemistry, and the Rennell Island specimens are now stored in boxes in the Department of Geology, University of Sydney.

Personnel.

The party, consisting of G. A. V. Stanley, B.Sc. (Geologist-in-Charge, University of Sydney), N. Wilson (Wireless Operator and Field Assistant), E. Dudley-Davis (Sub-Inspector of Police), and H. W. Hogbin, B.A. (Anthropologist, University of Sydney), arrived at Rennell Island in H.M.C.Y. "Ranadi" on the 8th August, 1927, accompanied by

His Honour the Resident Commissioner (Captain R. R. Kane). Other details of the expedition, such as the number of police attached to it, the servants, the quantities of provisions, etc., have, I understand, been reported upon by Mr. Davis, and fall beyond the scope of the present report.

The base camp.

A base camp was established at Kunggava (see Maps A-D*). This is almost the only feasible site for a base, for it is from here that the main "roads" lead to the interior of the Tenggano and Kunava districts, which appear to be the most populous and important areas of the island. Here a ship anchored at the point shown on Map A obtains the greatest amount of shelter from the south-eastward, while the broken character of the fringing reef affords numerous passages suitable for small boats. An expedition may be disembarked here quickly and without difficulty. For any party visiting the island for any length of time a base on the coast is essential. Situated as Kunggava is, at the centre of the southern coastline, it is probable that even the extremities of the island are less than a week's march overland from it. A tank being a vital necessity to any party a large base cannot be made inland. The system which was adopted by us, of making excursions into the interior for a week or so at a time, returning at the end of the period to the base to rest and write up notes of the results, has much to recommend it. All the evidence points to the complete suitability of Kunggava as the site of a main station or base.

Schedule of the field work.

Field work was commenced on the 15th August by making an examination of, and mapping, the "roads" in the vicinity of the base camp.

On the 27th August the island was crossed by Mr. Wilson and myself along the road shown on Map A, leading through the garden marked Goboga.

From the 3rd to the 9th September a visit was made to Munggainggau, in the division of Sa'atupa, Tenggano district. During this visit the southern coastline between the east point of Kunggava Bay and Onenggaguga was examined and mapped, and part of the shoreline of the lake was explored. (See Map A.)

On returning to the base camp an attack of diarrhoea forced me to remain in camp for a week.

During the last week of August and the first two weeks of September the local natives suffered from an influenza epidemic. During much of this period we could get no help from them. There were none able to act as guides or carriers, and, as our presence was apparently the cause of the trouble, we were looked at askance. This epidemic was a very considerable hindrance to the work of both Mr. Hogbin and myself.

The north-western half of the island (Kunava district) was visited twice between the 21st September and the 3rd October. Following the roads indicated on Map A, the district was penetrated as far as Munggaiika, the far north-west end of the island not being reached.

The end of the expedition came about three weeks too soon. From the 6th to the 8th October heavy rain prevented field work. During this period Mr. Hogbin and myself made elaborate arrangements to visit the far south-east end of the island (Kunggivi). This area appears to possess some sacred character, for it was only after considerable bargaining and

* Not reproduced.

promising to take presents with us to place on a certain grave there, that we were able to engage carriers, and canoes on the lake. I had decided to ask for the party to be taken off in H.M.C.Y. "Ranadi" on our return from this trip. On the 9th October a radio was sent to Tulagi to this effect. In answer to this radio we received news of the recall of the expedition, owing to the native troubles in Malaita. On the evening of the 10th October the party left Kunggava in H.M.C.Y. "Ranadi."

It is thus clear that large areas of the island are yet unexplored. On the Map (Map A) the areas which were visited are shown in some detail. Most of the "roads" are approximate only, but the relative distances along them between the principal gardens are fairly reliable.

PREVIOUS LITERATURE.

The information available before our visit to Rennell Island is both scanty and scattered, and in some cases is difficult of access (in Sydney).

It would appear that among the earliest visitors to the island were Bishops Selwyn and Patterson (1856), who recognised the Polynesian affinities of the natives. There is no doubt that the island was visited many times in the early days by traders, recruiters, adventurers and others who have left no record of their visit. For example, there is a reference by C. M. Woodford* to the visit of the captain of a sailing vessel of whom he made some enquiries about the island.

Other recorded visits are C. M. Woodford, 1906; A. G. Stephen, 1906; Dr. Northcote Deck and J. Hedley Abbott (several visits), 1908-11.

Published accounts of the visits of Woodford† and Deck‡ have appeared in the *Geographical Journal*, and the essential facts of the latter's account have been reprinted in Stewart's Handbook.§ In the same publication is an account of a visit to the near-by island of Bellona, reprinted from the *New Zealand Herald* on 8th July, 1921, which appeared under the *nom de plume* of Haerrere.||

The very latest reference to Rennell appears in the book by C. H. Dickenson: "A Trader in the Savage Solomons." A few notes on the island, based on hearsay, are given. They are of no value.

At the present day Rennell Island is certainly one of the least known of the Pacific Islands. Yet to the geologist and the anthropologist it is undoubtedly one of the most interesting.

THE NATIVES.

It is not within the scope of the present report to give a full account of the inhabitants of Rennell Island. Furthermore, it would be an infringement upon the rights of Mr. Hogbin, who as Anthropologist spent all his time making a special study of the locals, and who will eventually publish a very full account of his results. At the same time it is desirable that a brief summary of their salient characteristics and habits should be included here for the information of the Administration, as well as for that of any party who may contemplate a visit to the island in the future.

* C. M. Woodford: "A Naturalist among the Headhunters," 1890, p. 234.

† C. M. Woodford: "On some little-known Polynesian Settlements in the Neighbourhood of the Solomon Islands." The *Geographical Journal*, Vol. XLVIII, No. 1, 1916, pp. 45-9.

‡ Dr. Northcote Deck: "Rennell Island," The *Geographical Journal*, Vol. LVII, No. 6, 1921, pp. 474-6.

§ P. S. Allen: "Stewart's Handbook of the Pacific Islands," 1923, p. 185.

|| Haerrere: "Article on Bellona," Stewart's Handbook, 1923, pp. 186-8.

The locals are quite distinct in ethnic type from the inhabitants of nearly all the other Solomon Islands. They are quite evidently somewhat mixed, but are predominantly Polynesian. They constitute one of the several isolated Polynesian "colonies" in Melanesia (c.f., Ontong Java, Sikaiana, and the Loyalty Islands).

Origin.

The original home of these folks is unknown. Native tradition places it at Uvea. This may possibly refer to Uvea (Wallis Id.) near Samoa; more probably Uvea is a common Polynesian place-name, and hence this tradition may have little more significance than merely confirming the evidence of appearance and speech as to a Polynesian origin. The earliest members of the group almost certainly drifted to the island. Genealogies indicate that they have been there some 17 generations (400 years).

Their curious environment calls for many curious adaptations. They are relatively few in number, being estimated by me to be at least 700, and are far enough away from the other islands to be exempt from raids and head-hunting. Being poor workers, having practically no coconuts and hence no copra, they have been given up as a bad job by recruiters and traders alike. They are still almost quite untouched by white influence.

Physical Characters.

The colour of the skin is light brown. The average cephalic index* (based on 113 measurements) is 74.84. In general the stature is less than that of the average Englishman, but some of the men reach 6 feet 2 inches. The hair is wavy. It is not so stiff as the usual Melanesian hair, yet it is not typically Polynesian.

Speech.

A Polynesian dialect is spoken. Mr. Hogbin collected about 500 words. There appears to be a close relationship to Samoan, with, however, certain definite letter changes. The numerals are as follows: *tasi, ngua, tonggu, ha, nggima, onu, hitu, vanggu, iva, katoa*. Here the Samoan "l" becomes the Rennell "ngg"; and the "f" becomes "h." The native name for Rennell is Munggava; for Bellona Munggiki.

Religion.

It is very important that any party visiting the island should be particularly careful not to infringe the numerous *tapus*. It is possible that the murders of the native teachers† left at Rennell by Dr. Deck were due to the infringement of a *tapu* connected with the cutting of hair.

There seems to be no priestly man—nor magicians or sorcerers. Each fully initiated man is able to speak, through the dead in the grave, to a higher being whose very name is *tapu*, and must not be uttered. The name of this "Master-an-tapu" (as he is called in pidgin) is possibly *Te-hainggi-atua*. *Atua* is the usual Polynesian word. There are special houses belonging to this being. They are distinguished from ordinary houses (and resemble grave houses) in having curved rafters. In front is a cleared space where ceremonies are held. Inside are canoe paddles which are used by the dead when they work in the canoe belonging to the "Master." There are no images. The shark appears to be sacred. The shark's tails which hang in the houses, and the big wooden shark-hooks are all *tapu*, and must not be handled.

* The cephalic index is a number, found by expressing the greatest breadth of the skull as a percentage of the greatest length.

† Deck : Ibid. p. 476.

The most extraordinary object connected with the sacred things is the *te-haka-sani-sani*. This is a long spear-like object carved out of a single piece of wood, and having "barbs" on each side varying from 10 to 17 in number. These were observed by Woodford, and also by Deck, who each expressed the opinion that they were thrusting spears—used as a halberd or partizan for thrusting and backward pulling. This is not the case. Mr. Hogbin and I have discovered them to be ceremonial sticks of a rather sacred character, which are kept in the houses and are brought out only during the concluding stages of a prolonged ceremony. It is thought by us that each fully initiated man possesses one of these sticks. They are hard to obtain.

Weapons.

Stone axes and adzes were formerly used, but they were probably never very numerous owing to the absence of any quantity of stone suitable for making them. Light, bone-tipped spears, and bone-tipped arrows are carried about. It seems that the use of the bow and arrow has become lost (atrophied). There are various forms of sticks which could possibly serve as clubs. It seems that there is little or no internal fighting. There is little cause of dissension for there is ample room on the island for all, and food is fairly abundant and is easily obtained. The isolated nature of the settlements tends to support the view that there is generally peace over all the island.

Although a strong body of police was attached to the party, no difficulties with the locals were experienced at any time. All precautions were taken to guard against surprise. It is my opinion that any party visiting the island for any length of time should be strongly armed.

Occupations.

Large areas of the island are entirely uninhabited. (See the Map*). It appears that the locals divide the island into four Districts (see Map B*), viz., Munggihenua, Kunava, Lugu and Tenggano. Of these, the first is still entirely unexplored; it is thought to be thickly populated. The Kunava District is very populous. Lugu, except for the shoreline of Kunggava Bay, is almost entirely uninhabited. Tenggano is thickly populated, the bulk of the people living around the margin of the lake.

Agriculture and fishing are the chief occupations of this curiously distributed population. There are no villages. Each grown man owns one or two gardens, where he eventually builds a house and lives with his family. The houses are rectangular in shape, and have sloping roofs which reach to within 18 inches of the ground on all sides. They are not raised above the earth. It is not feasible for Europeans to use these houses except very temporarily. It is advisable for any party travelling inland on Rennell to provide tents for all members of the party, as at most of the gardens there is literally no accommodation to be had for police or servants. Coconuts are few and are sacred. Paw-paws, yams, panna, bananas, taro, betel-nut, etc., are grown. Yams and taro were bought by us in small quantities at the rate of six baskets for a 12-inch knife.

From the point of view of a native the Rennellese are abjectly poor. There are no pigs, poultry or dogs. Hence they are practically vegetarians. There is no copra, or pearl shell.

* Not reproduced.

Navigation and Science.

Many men and women are able to draw very good sketch maps of the island as a whole, or of any small part of it.* Such information is of great value as a basis on which to plan the exploration of the island. It gives an idea of what is likely to be encountered. The day's march may be planned to ensure camping at a garden where it is known that there are houses large enough to shelter the police, servants and carriers, and where it is certain that yams and coconuts are to be obtained.

Canoes are hollowed out of logs and have out-riggers. On the lake they are provided with platforms on which to sit, and a few have hand-woven mat sails.

Social organisation.

This important subject is beyond the scope of the present report. Sister avoidance is very strong, and must sometimes be taken into account when selecting local carriers. The system of inheritance of property and power is not fully understood.

Work and payment.

During the course of the survey it became necessary to use the locals as carriers, guides, etc. The young men were willing to work for the following rates of pay:—

$\frac{1}{2}$ day's work	...	...	...	...	2 fish hooks.
1 day's work	...	...	...	...	5 fish hooks.
4 days' work	...	...	...	...	1 lava lava, or a copra knife.
7 days' work	...	...	...	...	1 12-inch knife.
14 days' work	...	...	...	...	1 large axe.

It was found to be very desirable that at least one woman should be attached to a party. In addition to being a strong and willing carrier, the woman can undertake to cook the presents of yams and panna which are sure to be made to the white man. It is impossible to ask a local man to do this, as for him to do it is *tapu*. In order to pay these women it is essential to have a supply of knives, mirrors, and large red beads.

It was found to be unnecessary to provide rations for the local members of the party. Though they will eat rice and biscuits, and at times express a strong desire for tinned meat, they prefer their own diet of paw-paws, yams and taro. Thus it is desirable to exercise a little care, and camp only at gardens where these are certain to be obtainable.

VEGETATION.

Like nearly all the islands in these latitudes, Rennell is buried for the most part beneath a dense jungle vegetation or rain forest, which is a direct response to the warmth, copious rainfall and general humidity. At the same time there are considerable areas of the interior on which there is no tall growth, the surface barely being concealed beneath a soft creeping vine. These areas may be crossed without much difficulty, and from them a view can often be obtained of the surrounding landscape, which is very useful when surveying is being carried on. One of the worst difficulties of the surveyor in the jungle is the inability to see any distance.

ANIMALS.

Land animals are scarce. Perhaps the commonest are the monitor lizards (so-called iguanas). The giant coconut crab is frequently seen in the jungle, far from the coconut groves. In the lake are water snakes. It

* G. A. V. Stanley: "Rennell Island. Primitive Map-Makers." Sydney *Morning Herald*, 3rd December, 1927, p. 13.

is not known if these are poisonous. Land snakes, if any are present, are very rare. Flying foxes are common and are much prized by the locals, both as food and for the sake of their teeth, which are made into strings. Large grey pigeons and small doves are fairly abundant and form a welcome change to tinned meats. On the lake are numerous ducks. These are not eaten by the locals, and in consequence are not at all shy. At night they came ashore among the tents when I was camped at Munggaingau on the shores of the lake, and were easily knocked down with sticks. White ibis are very common. I understand that these birds are not found elsewhere in the Solomon Islands.

PHYSIOGRAPHY.

General.

Rennell Island is probably the finest example in the world of a raised atoll. As such it is of very considerable geological interest, and would form one of the finest places to be visited by a purely scientific expedition having as its object the investigation of the vexed question of the origin of oceanic atolls. Formerly a great annular, sea-level coral reef enclosing a central lagoon, it has after elevation preserved its general outline. It is composed entirely of limestone.

At present it has the form of a long narrow dish—the interior is depressed and is surrounded by a rim, the outer side of which forms the steep-to coastline

Maps.

An accurate survey has not been made of the whole island, but the log of H.M.C.Y. "Ranadi" indicated that the southern coastline (Tuahenua, Map B*) is about 50 miles in length, and that Kunggava Bay is situated approximately in the middle of it. It is probable that the width of the island varies considerably. It was crossed by me only at one spot, namely, along the road shown on Map A,* leading from Kunggava Base Camp through Goboga. Here the width is about five miles. The trend of the northern coastline (Banggikanggo) there, and also native information, seems to indicate that this is the narrowest part, and that both to the north-west and the south-east the width increases.

Two maps of the island have already appeared in the *Geographical Journal*, and are reproduced on the sheet accompanying this report. (See Maps C-D*). Dr. Deck (Map C*) has not indicated on what grounds he bases his northern coastline. It is interesting to compare the place-names on these two maps with the names found by us.

In general then, Rennell Island may be said to be 50 miles long, with a width varying between 6 and 12 miles. The long axis trends in the direction of the trade wind, i.e., S.E.-N.W.

The Coastline.

A running survey has been made of the coastline from the extreme south-east point of the island (Matahenua) to the east point of Kunggava Bay. This was carried out by Captain R. Crookshank and myself from H.M.C.Y. "Ranadi" on the afternoon of the 8th August, 1927. Subsequently, a more detailed survey of the shores of Kunggava Bay was made from a boat by Mr. Wilson and myself. The southern coastline between East Point and Onenggagua was mapped by myself during a canoe journey between these two points.

* Not reproduced.

From a distance the island is remarkable for its low uniform profile. Closer up the shoreline is steep-to, and along much of its length is protected by a narrow barrier reef on which the surf breaks violently. This barrier reef is remarkable for the narrowness of its lagoon. It is nevertheless a true barrier and not a fringing reef. Along such sections of the coast it would be impossible to land from a boat, and it is only the protection which is afforded by this barrier reef which makes canoeing possible. The reef, however, passes in places from a barrier into a true fringing reef. This is so around the shores of Kunggava Bay, where the reef bares only at the lowest tides, and where there are numerous winding, coral-free channels which afford passages suitable for boats and canoes.

Behind the reefs the shoreline consists for the most part of blueish grey and white limestone cliffs. Occasionally there are white sand beaches. In many cases these are occupied by small gardens consisting of a few paw-paws and coconuts, and perhaps a couple of temporary shelter huts. Permanent settlement appears to be almost confined to the interior. Only around the shores of Kunggava Bay are there permanent settlements on the coast. Fishing parties and groups of people travelling along the coastline in canoes make use of the temporary shelters and depend for food on what they can catch, or else on gardens a little distance inland to which special excursions have to be made. For this reason any surveying party travelling along the coastline by canoe must provide rations for the local guides and carriers, in order to avoid the exasperating delays incurred in getting food inland, since along the coast no supplies of native food can be counted upon.

Behind the immediate shoreline the land rises steeply. Native "roads" leading to the interior are numerous, but need to be pointed out by a guide. They all appear to be equally rough, and the climbing is arduous. As a rule they lead to a relatively low gap in the atoll rim, so that though the average height of the rim is 400-500 feet, the interior may be gained through a col of only a couple of hundred feet, in some cases. Again, the ascent as a rule is not uniformly steep. The tectonic history of Rennell has not been simple, and in places on the outer side of the main rim there are still relics of an elevated barrier reef behind which is an elevated lagoon. In climbing the rim, then, the first steep ascent is over the old barrier reef: then follows a level space representing the lagoon; and then comes a longer and steeper climb up the main mass of the rim.

The Rim.

In general, once the summit is reached a more gentle descent is commenced into the great central depression. The top of the rim is not level. There are low gaps and higher peaks. In many places it is extremely narrow, being only a few feet wide, knife-edged and jagged. Elsewhere it is much broader. Exposed as it is to the full force of the weather, it is everywhere much fissured. The sharp limestone pinnacles of the rim are quite the most difficult part of the island to traverse.

At several points on the rim clearings were made from which an uninterrupted view could be obtained over the whole island, and on which tall marks were erected to serve as reference points for the survey.

The interior depression.

Having crossed the outer rim the central depression is reached. This represents the one-time lagoon of the ancient atoll. As a whole the island has been tilted so that the south-east end of this depression is occupied by an extensive, brackish lake. This lake is not, as Dr. Deck surmised, at

sea-level. Nor is it relatively so large as his map indicates. Its surface is about 70 feet above the sea. Neither Mr. Hogbin nor myself observed the diurnal tide of a few inches which is described by Deck.*

Again, the name of the lake is not Tungano, as shown on Dr. Deck's map (Map C†). The name of the whole lake district is Tenggano (see Map B†).

Communications.

In traversing the island during the course of the survey communication was either by canoe along the shoreline, or on the lake, or by native "roads" through the jungle from garden to garden.

Canoe.

It was found essential to buy two large canoes. For each of these we paid one axe. When about to set out in them we could select our crews from among the carriers. It should be noted that the middle seat of the canoe is *tapu* and must not be sat upon. The canoes of the coast will take three to five men, and a small amount of luggage. They are slow—the average speed being about two miles per hour. They are both poled and paddled.

On the lake the canoes are somewhat larger, and have a light decking on which the occupants sit. In canoeing on the lake a great disability is the persistent trade wind. This sweeps over the lake day after day and lashes up a nasty choppy sea, in which the clumsy canoes have to be constantly bailed. Against the wind paddling is very hard and the progress is exasperatingly slow. To reach Kunggivi from Vainggau is considered to take three days. With the wind the speed is much greater, and if the canoe has mat sails, or (more commonly) has a leafy branch lashed upright in it, there is little more work called for than to guide it. In this way the journey from Kunggivi back to Vainggau might take one day.

Overland.

Communication overland along the native "roads" can only be described as tedious and fatiguing. The track is narrow and winds interminably through the jungle, now level, now rising steeply, now falling. The surface is very broken, the limestone having all the characters of karst weathering—gaping fissures and jagged pinnacles. The body is continually tensed to maintain a balance. Where the path is more level or where it has been beaten smooth, a stiff red clay—or *terra rossa*—derived from the weathering of the impure limestone, lies inches deep, and with rain changes to a sticky mud. This red earth was mistaken by Woodford and Deck for soil of volcanic origin. As in all jungle areas thorny vines hang across the path and have to be cut away. The dense vegetation prevents a view being obtained for more than a few yards. Under such conditions, and in such humid atmosphere, a good average marching pace is two miles per hour. When doing geology it is, of course, a good deal less. It is nearly impossible to do any geology away from the "road," for in addition to a way having to be cut, the surface off the "beaten" track is frightful.

The Tenggano (Lake) District.

This is the south-eastern and perhaps most populous and important division of the island. It is apparently controlled by Tapongi, whose chief garden is Vainngau. Settlement is practically confined to the shores of the lake.

* Dr. Northcote Deck : Ibid. p. 475.

† Not reproduced.

From Kunggava the lake may be reached by two routes. The usual route is by road to the coast near East Point on the southern coast, thence by canoe to the south-eastward. From the coast several "roads" lead inland to the lake. Mr. Hogbin reached Vainggau from Tuhangganggo, while a little later I reached Munggainggau from Onenggaguga. Native information indicates that many such "roads" exist. An alternative route is entirely overland to Hanggeuta, on the shores of the lake. This "road" was cut for us by Tapongi and his people, as we said that we did not like the canoe journey. It is extremely rough and difficult, and lies through entirely uninhabited country as far as Tatuku, where there is a small clearing from which a road leads to the southern coast. There is no permanent house or garden between Hongivaka and Hanggeuta. Except for the purposes of geological investigation it is not recommended. From Onenggaguga a steep and difficult ascent over the fissured limestone for about 25 minutes brings one to the summit of the rim of the atoll, at a height of very nearly 400 feet above the sea. From this point the road is continuously down hill, steep descents alternating with fairly level stretches. In about 25 minutes a garden, Nunggau, 220 feet below the level of the rim, is reached. Here are paw-paws, young coconuts, and a couple of small houses. Here also is a branch road (not shown on the map) leading to other gardens in the Sa'atupu sub-district. From this point a ridge 120 feet high must be crossed, after which a continual descent for about an hour brings one to Munggainggau on the shore of the lake, and 70 feet above the sea.

Munggainggau thus lies about two hours' march from the coast. This represents approximately 4 miles. It is clear that here the lake does not abut directly upon the rim of the atoll, but between the shoreline and the higher land is a sort of coastal plain. The immediate shoreline of the lake along these parts is low and frequently swampy. There is evidence in many places of a lowering of the level of the lake, so that taro is cultivated in mud-filled depressions that were formerly swampy arms of the lake.

At Munggainggau the lake is comparatively clear of islands. There is a single conspicuous one (Sanginganggitu) standing in apparently deep water towards the middle of the lake. To the westward of this the islands increase in number until at the western end of the lake (Munggivai) there is a veritable maze of them. To the westward again are extensive swamps out of which small hills project. Beyond this again is the uninhabited country towards Kunggava and the district of Lugu.

The far south-east end of the Tenggano District is known as Kunggivi. This was not visited by us for the reasons given in the Introduction (page 13 of this report). From a distance it would seem that the lake here abuts close to the highland rim, and that there is little or no coastal plain. Also that this end of the lake seems to be almost entirely island-free.

The reasons for the striking differences between the two ends of the lake (Munggivai and Kunggivi) are to be found in a consideration of the tilting movements which the island has suffered. The floor of the central depression is not flat. It is undulating, and there are hills and ridges in it which rise in some cases 100 feet above the general level. As a whole the island has been tilted towards the south-east. In consequence, at the south-east (Kunggivi) end, the lake is deepest; it has completely submerged all minor undulations on the floor of the lagoon and washes directly against the atoll rim. To the north-westward, however, the lake gradually becomes shallower. At first only the highest ridges of the lagoon floor appear as islands; then these islands increase in number; and finally the waters of the lake merge imperceptibly through a maze of swamps and low hills into the undulating floor of the central depression.

The Kunava (North-West District).

This is the other populous and important division of the island. It is separated from the Tenggano (Lake) District by the almost entirely uninhabited district of Lugu. It is apparently controlled by Tahua and (?) his elder brother Panio. Settlements appear to be more or less uniformly scattered throughout it. (See Map A.*)

From Kunggava Base Camp it is reached by canoe to Renggokipua, thence by "road" to Nunggau, which is the first garden on the road. Nunggau is about 5 miles from Tenggokipua, and the track lies through entirely uninhabited country of the Lugu District. Along this "road" there are no branch roads until after Palolo.

From Tenggokipua the "road" rises gently for about half-a-mile, reaching a height of about 250 feet. Then commences a short, steep descent, followed by a gradual rise to Tekala (270 feet). This represents the summit of the "road," which here crosses the rim of the island through a low gap. Tekala is only a name. It is a place on the road where people rest. Except that it is the highest point, there is nothing whatever to distinguish it from any other point on the road. About half-a-mile further on is Ongonggomu (210 feet) which like Tekala is only a resting place. Here the descent into the central depression really begins. There is a steep fall, followed by a long, gentle descent for about half-a-mile to Navaipongo. This point on the road is again almost a name only. Here is a tiny pool of water where a drink may be had. Follows a long and undulating walk over the fissured and jagged coral limestone to Palolo—again only a name—a resting place. After a further long undulating tramp the first garden and settlement is reached at Nganeu (115 feet). Five minutes further on is Nunggau (115 feet). Shortly before reaching the former place a branch track to the right leads in about a mile to the gardens of Taumako and Tuhenui (155 feet). From Tuhenui a short road leads direct to Nunggau.

Nunggau commences the Kunava District proper. From now on the "road" leads quickly from one garden to the next. Numerous branch "roads" exist and there are all sorts of alternative routes for reaching the same point. The country is entirely similar to most other parts of the central depression, and a description of any small portion of it, or of any one garden, would very nearly fit any part of the whole area.

The district was explored as far as Munggaiika. The position of this place on the Map is very approximate only. It must be about 12 miles from Tenggokipua, but as our visit was made during a particularly wet spell lasting several days there was no chance of fixing its position with greater accuracy.

At this point we found that there was an unwillingness among the locals to accompany us any further. They claim that the far north-west portion of the island (munggihenua) is not controlled by Tahua; that the people living there are "bad"; and that they do not know the "roads." The latter claim is probably true. Nevertheless, it seems to me that with a little determination the north-west end of the island could be reached without much difficulty, though it would almost certainly be a distinct advantage to engage a fresh set of carriers somewhere about Munggaiika.

GEOLOGY.

General.

As far as is known, the island is composed entirely of coral limestone. There appears to be no outcrop of volcanic rock known to the natives. If such existed the rock would surely be used for making stone tools.

* Not reproduced.

A few stone tools *do* exist, but the stone for their making appears to be obtained as rounded pebbles embedded in the limestone. Some of these pebbles were found embedded *in situ* at a spot on the shore of Kunggava Bay about a mile north of the base camp. Their presence thus embedded in the limestone would seem to lend support to the well-known Darwinian (Subsidence) theory of the formation of atolls.

The limestone varies a good deal in lithological character. Only a relatively few representative specimens were brought back, for though of great scientific interest, the collecting of such specimens was not the primary object of the expedition.

When broken the limestone is usually one of two colours, viz., a pure white or else a light buff. On the rim of the island, the white rock seems to predominate, while in the interior depression the brownish rock is commonest. Fossil corals and shells are nearly always visible. In many places internal casts of the shells have weathered out of the rock and are literally strewn all over the surface.

Very rarely was there found any tendency to a banding in the rock; nor were found any specimens showing any trace of the pisolitic or nodular structures which are so frequently seen in the phosphatised rock of Ocean Island and Nauru.

As set out in the interim report specimens of limestone bearing tricalcium phosphate were obtained from several widely-separated localities.

Origin of Phosphate Deposits.

In prospecting for possible phosphate deposits at Rennell Island it is important to consider, first, the mode of origin of such deposits, and secondly, the peculiar configuration of the island and its probable tectonic history.

Stated briefly, the formation of phosphate of lime is due to the leaching of guano resting on limestone or coralline rocks. The ammonium phosphate, when taken into solution by water reacts with the calcium carbonate to form tricalcic phosphate and ammonium carbonate, the latter being lost. Consequently the final product *in situ* is a phosphatic rock which (as at Ocean, Nauru, and other and less known islands in the Pacific) occurs as a layer varying from a few inches to several feet in depth, resting upon and merging into limestone rock over considerable areas.

The immediate source of the guano is the excrement of sea birds which rest and nest upon low-lying coral islands in countless numbers. If elevation is slow the birds may well continue to occupy the slightly elevated islets for considerable periods of time; but once the island becomes vegetated then the sea-birds visit it no more. They may move to other localities for they prefer the low-lying, sandy islands of the sea-level coral reefs.

In the case of comparatively small islands like Ocean and Nauru the relative concentration of birds to the available space must have been very great. The case of Rennell is very different.

When it was at sea-level Rennell was a long narrow atoll aligned along the direction of the trade wind. Islets above sea-level would necessarily be annular (as in the case of large atolls like Funafuti, the Maldives and many others, which are at present at sea-level). After elevation the position of these islets would be taken by the rim of the island. Hence it is in the rim that we should expect from first considerations to find deposits of phosphate. Yet as emergence continued it is likely that in the central depression islets would appear which would form favourable haunts for the sea-birds. Such islets might be expected to be of relatively small extent, and, compared to the islets of the rim, of relatively small value as sources of phosphate.

Again, since the north-west end of the island appears to have been tilted more than the south-east end, it would appear that the rim at the former end should, above all other localities, be likely to be phosphatised.

Accordingly, in carrying out the reconnaissance, special attention was devoted to the rim of the island. Since all roads to the interior lead across the rim, this work may be done very conveniently. Also during the survey work several hills were cleared on the rim for the erecting of marks of reference. This gave an opportunity for examining some of the highest points on the rim, which would formerly have been annular islets, and where a priori a concentration of phosphate would be expected.

Localities where Phosphatic Limestone was found.

In spite of special attention thus being directed to the rim of the island, phosphatic limestone was discovered at only one locality actually on the rim. This was at the point shown on the Map A.,* accompanying this report, where the "road" from Onenggaguga to Munggainggau crosses the rim of the island at a height of nearly 400 feet above sea-level. (See page 20 of this report.)

(A) On the freshly fractured surface this rock is light cream coloured, and exhibits a curious structure. In it are numerous short rod-like bodies of chalky white appearance. These may be the stem joints of one of the calcareous seaweeds. A portion of this rock was analysed, although the field tests alone indicated that the percentage of phosphate present was very small. The analysis showed 0.05 per cent. of phosphoric anhydride (P_2O_5), which is equivalent to 0.11 of tricalcium phosphate ($Ca_3(PO_4)_2$).

(B) The second locality from which rock-bearing phosphate was found is close to the Kunggava Base Camp, alongside the "road" leading to Hongaiika. The rock does not actually outcrop on the "road," but was found in a small cliff a few yards to the north. It is of very limited extent, and being a few feet only above the sea is far below the level of the top of the rim. Hereabouts the rim is certainly not phosphatised, for it was examined in great detail.

The rock is very fine grained, is a dark cream brown in colour and shows a distinct tendency to banding. In some of the bands there is a slight tendency to the development of a minutely pisolitic structure. Analysis of this rock revealed 0.27 per cent. of phosphoric anhydride— P_2O_5 —equivalent to 0.59 per cent. of tricalcium phosphate—($Ca_3(PO_4)_2$).

(C) Other localities at which rock bearing slight traces of phosphate were found are shown on Map A.,* accompanying this report. The field tests indicate that they are of even poorer value than the exceedingly poor samples analysed above. They present no further features of interest.

Mode of occurrence.

Examination in the field leaves no reasonable doubt that these slightly phosphatised areas have any more than a very limited extent. In the first place, diligent search over many miles of "roads" and coastline has failed to reveal more than one or two occurrences. Again, when these are located they all appear to be closely associated with unphosphatised limestone, and never was it possible to trace them for more than a few yards laterally.

SUMMARY.

Rennell Island is situated almost 120 miles to the south-east of San Christoval. It is about 50 miles long, and varies in width from 6 to 12 miles. It is probably the finest example in the world of a raised atoll.

* Not reproduced.

The island has the form of a long, narrow dish. The coastline is steep-to, and cliffed in many places. The interior is a depressed basin which represents the lagoon of the ancient atoll. At present the rim has an average height of 500 feet, but there are several much lower gaps.

The surface is that characteristic of limestone regions—karst lands. Caverns and sink-holes are common. All rain quickly sinks underground.

As the whole the island has been slightly tilted, and at the south-east end of the central depression is an extensive brackish lake, the surface of which is about 70 feet above sea-level.

The vegetation is for the most part dense jungle.

The natives are mixed Polynesian and are quite friendly.

The island is composed entirely of limestone. Pebbles of volcanic rock found embedded in the limestone appear to support the Darwinian (Subsidence) theory of the formation of coral reefs.

Samples of limestone rock bearing tricalcium phosphate were obtained at several widely separated localities, which are shown on the Map* accompanying this report. The field tests indicated that the percentage of phosphate was much too low to be of commercial interest, and the phosphatised areas were found to be patchy and very localised.

The field tests were confirmed by analysis of two of the evidently richer samples. These showed 0.59 per cent. and 0.11 per cent. of tricalcium phosphate— $(Ca_3 (PO_4)_2)$ —respectively. This percentage is quite negligible. For comparison, material from the famous phosphate islands of the Pacific is usually of very high grade, containing 80 to 90 per cent. of tricalcium phosphate after calcination to remove moisture. In South Australia, where deposits of phosphate rocks occur over wide areas, first-grade rock is regarded as over 60 per cent. while some second-grade is used as low as 50 per cent.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

In view of the fact that a very large area of the island was not explored the possibility of the occurrence of commercially possible deposits of phosphate cannot be set aside. It is my considered opinion that, if present, they are of small extent.

The fact that the reconnaissance just concluded is incomplete does not warrant the expense and trouble of a second expedition being sent out for two reasons:—

(a) That the size of the island, the nature of the topography, and the difficulties offered by the vegetation and means of communication are such that at least six months would be required; and

(b) that in my opinion, the chances of ultimate success are much too slender.

G. A. V. STANLEY.

Department of Geography,
University of Sydney.

* Not reproduced.

APPENDIX B.

GEOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE OF THE ISLANDS OF OWA RAHA
(SANTA ANNA) AND OWA RIKI (SANTA CATALINA), EASTERN
SOLOMONS.

INTERIM REPORT.

Tulagi,

14th December, 1927.

SIR,

I have the honour to report herein results and impressions of my investigations for phosphates in the above districts from the 16th November to the 8th December, 1927.

Owa Raha.

An island of coral formation situate five miles east of Cape Serville, Makira, having an area of four and one-half square miles approximately, almost circular in shape, with longest axis north and south. From seaward the island appears to be surrounded by a continuous atoll rim. Actually this rim is a series of irregularly disposed ridges, which only at isolated points form the coastline. Elsewhere, a level platform varying in width from 200 to 500 yards at northern end and 100 yards to 200 yards on south and south-east forms the coastline. This platform is just above highest tide-level.

With the exception of Fereni these ridges rarely exceed an elevation of 120 feet. Fereni rises to about 530 feet and is of limestone formation to within about 50 feet of its summit. The crown of Fereni clearly indicates its volcanic core and the even height of the encircling limestone suggests incomplete submergence.

The interior of the island, representing the atoll lagoon, is undulating, and contains two freshwater lakes encompassed by irregularly disposed ridges which are units of the rim series only at the north end of the northern lake (Awelafa) and the south end of the southern lake (Waipiapia).

Lake Awelafa is the larger, being about three-quarters of a mile north to south and one-half mile wide. On sounding, this lake revealed an even gradation of depth from one fathom at the southern end to 18 fathoms at the northern end.

Awelafa is an assured supply of fresh water for any industrial purposes, and is suitable for domestic use though slightly flat to taste.

Its western shore lies about three-quarters of a mile from Port Mary (Upuna).

Waipiapia is circular, one-half mile in diameter, and has an even depth of one to two fathoms.

Both lakes keep practically constant level, only rising after abnormal rains.

The vegetation in general is of softwood tree growth rarely exceeding six inches in diameter, and is free from undergrowth.

Clearing would not be a serious problem.

The island is at present free from mosquitoes, has a high rainfall and a generally healthy climate. Malaria is normal amongst natives, but is probably contracted in the mainland Makira.

Owa Raha is divided into three districts—Upuna, Otogara and Finatogo. The two last-named are on the eastern side

A Mission School (South Sea Evangelical) is established and the Melanesian Mission visits Finatogo. Otagara has resisted missionary intrusion entirely.

Population about 330.

Port Mary, on the west coast, provides a good anchorage of seventeen to eighteen fathoms for all but strong north-west weather.

The general formation of the island and the favourable occurrence of the rock deposits both tend to the economical working of the available supply.

I collected some five hundred samples from Owa Raha, but shortage of acid enabled testing of only four hundred and five (405) samples, representing an area of approximately three square miles. The untested samples represent an area of about three-quarters of a square mile. The balance of the whole area (three-quarters of a square mile) is made up of the platform of the north and north-west, which contains no rock outcrop, but consists of a dark coral sand of considerable depth. Tests of this sand indicate general phosphatisation.

The tested samples gave a positive reaction of eighty-seven and one-half per cent. (87½ per cent.).

Owa Riki.

A coral island, situate two miles south from Owa Raha, having an area of one and one-half square miles.

The conformation is simple and consists of a gradually rising range extending from the western extremity and terminating about 400 yards from the eastern (Fereni) end, where it attains an elevation of 320 feet.

This range drops more steeply to the coast for most of its length on the southern side, and runs more to the centre of the island at its eastern end. The northern side falls gradually in two sloping platforms, leaving a flat strip between the lower platform and the north coast of about 500 yards width.

The surface outcrop is only visible at the ends of the range, the central portion being covered by a loose loam twelve to eighteen inches deep.

On completion of tests I expect to find an easily available area of one-half to three-quarters of a square mile of phosphatised rock, having a depth of two hundred or more feet at the eastern end to about sixty feet at the western end.

Owa Riki is completely encircled by reef about 200 yards wide, which would present shipping difficulties similar to those of Ocean Island. The natives are obliged to construct wells for their water supply. Vegetation is similar to that of Owa Raha.

Population about 150. Refuse Missions but are quiet and law-abiding. Seventy-two samples from the eastern end of Fereni, from base to summit, gave a positive reaction of ninety-seven per cent. (97 per cent.).

About 100 more samples remain to be tested.

Conclusion.

The area of Owa Riki is not sufficient to warrant independent working, bearing in mind the shipping difficulties. Tide rips cause a continuous swell, that breaks on the encircling reef. The establishment of industry at Owa Raha would make Owa Riki worth developing.

The field test used is purely qualitative. To give a definite opinion on the commercial possibilities of the phosphate present I would need to have a short inspection of an established field.

Should the phosphate be present in a comparatively low or inferior degree, the conditions of working and proximity to Australia are sufficient to warrant more investigation.

I am, etc.,

N. WILSON.

APPENDIX C,

Sydney University,

10th February, 1928.

DEAR SIR,

Herein I have the honour to submit my final report on investigations for phosphates on the islands Owa Raha (Santa Anna) and Owa Riki (Santa Catalina) in the Solomons group.

As quoted in my interim report* of December, 1927, a comprehensive series of qualitative field tests indicated a general phosphatisation of the coral rock, of which the islands are formed.

Having completed a series of quantitative analyses on samples obtained from this coral outcrop I estimate an average content of 1.20 per cent. phosphoric anhydride (P_2O_5), equivalent to 2.62 per cent. of tricalcic phosphate ($Ca_3(PO_4)_2$).

Material suitable for commercial development would require a minimum content of 25 per cent. phosphoric anhydride.

It is my opinion that further investigation is not warranted in these islands.

Kindly advise me if any further information is required.

I am, etc.,

N. H. C. WILSON.

Secretary to the Government,

High Commission for the Western Pacific, Suva.

*Appendix B, page 27.

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HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY.

1. Barbados, the most easterly of the West Indian Islands, is situated in latitude $13^{\circ} 4'$ North, and longitude $59^{\circ} 37'$ West. In latitude it compares with Madras or the Gambia, but the climate differs from both. The Island is triangular in shape and is 21 miles long by 14 miles across the widest part. It contains approximately 166 square miles with a population at the end of 1927 of 168,299. It is approximately the size of the Isle of Wight and is said to resemble it in some respects.

2. Several theories, some extremely fantastic, to account for the name of Barbados have been put forward from time to time, but the one generally accepted is that the name—Los Barbados—was given by a Portuguese mariner who was the first European to visit the Island, the name being derived from the bearded fig trees which he observed on the Island in great numbers.

3. The first visit of Englishmen to Barbados is believed to have taken place in 1605, when the "Olive Blossom" put in there on its way to Guiana, and the crew finding that it was uninhabited erected a cross and took possession of the Island in the name of King James.

The first settlement took place in February, 1627. A London merchant, Sir William Courteen, fitted out a colonising expedition which landed 80 settlers and founded Hometown in that year.

Letters Patent issued by King Charles I. granted to the Earl of Carlisle proprietary rights over all the "Caribbee Islands" in which Barbados appears to have been included.

Later Letters Patent granted Barbados and three other islands to the Earl of Pembroke, in trust for Courteen, and a grant from King James I was also claimed by the Earl of Marlborough.

The disputes which followed were finally decided in 1629, in favour of the Earl of Carlisle, who had already taken forcible steps to secure possession of the Island.

4. In 1636 Lord Carlisle died, leaving his rights in Barbados and the Caribbee Islands in trust for the payment of his debts with remainder to his son who in 1647 leased his rights to Lord Willoughby of Parham for 21 years. In 1650 Lord Willoughby assumed the Government of Barbados in the name of the King and caused an Act to be passed recognising the rights of the King, Lord Carlisle, and himself, but in 1652 the Island capitulated to a force despatched by the Commonwealth on terms providing for government by a Governor appointed by the Commonwealth and consequently the extinction of proprietary rule.

5. At the Restoration the various claims based or secured on the Carlisle Patent revived, but a return to the proprietary system was strongly opposed by the planters, whose titles to land were in many cases defective. After lengthy negotiations a settlement was arrived at based on the surrender of the Carlisle Patent to the Crown and the compensation of the various claims out of a fixed revenue provided by the Colony in return for the confirmation of local land titles. The financial terms of the settlement were laid down by an Order in Council allocating the future revenue of the Caribbee Islands, that is to say, Barbados and the Leeward Islands, to the satisfaction of the claims, after which it was to revert to the Crown. The revenue itself was provided by a $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. duty on exports which was imposed by Acts passed by the Barbados Legislature in 1663 and by the Leeward Islands in 1664. This duty continued in force, and was a constant source of grievance to the Colonies until 1838 when it was abolished by an Act of the Imperial Parliament.

6. Barbados claims, by its natural and climatic conditions, to be the healthiest of all the West Indian islands, and is much patronized by residents in the neighbouring Colonies; while visitors

from northern climates, in considerable numbers, find in it an agreeable change. There is little variation in temperature, the range being generally from 76° to 86° Fah. and in the cool months—December to May—as low occasionally as 64°. The Island during this time gets the full benefit of the cool north-east trade winds. The hot and rainy season extends from June to November. Sir Charles Lucas in his “Historical Geography of the British Colonies” has this to say about Barbados:—

“Lying far out to sea its climate was better suited to Englishmen than that of the other parts of the Western Tropics The history of the Island with its long generations of English inhabitants is the most striking exception to the rule that the Tropics must be peopled by others than natives of Northern Europe.”

7. Unlike most of the other West Indian islands Barbados has never been out of British possession. The Government consists of a nominated Legislative Council of nine Members and a House of Assembly of twenty-four Members elected annually by the people on the basis of a moderate suffrage. The Executive functions of the Government are vested in an Executive Committee consisting of the Governor, Colonial Secretary, and Attorney-General, and such other persons as may be appointed by His Majesty the King together with one Member of the Legislative Council and four Members of the Assembly nominated by the Governor. The House of Assembly was constituted as far back as 1639, being first summoned in that year by Governor Hawley, and the names of the Members are on record in the Minutes. The Barbados House of Assembly is consequently, with the exception of the British House of Commons and the House of Assembly of Bermuda, the oldest legislative body in the Empire.

8. The Island lies almost out of the track of hurricanes although it is a matter of history that these have swept over the Island at far intervals, notably in 1780, 1831, and 1898, doing considerable damage. Earth tremors have been occasionally felt but severe shocks of earthquake have not occurred.

I.—GENERAL.

Assuming that the standard of cultivation is maintained, the most important factor determining the year's prosperity in Barbados is its rainfall, there being no rivers or permanent waterways available for the purposes of irrigation, and the raising of water from wells is not always economical. During the year under review, sugar-cane, the staple crop of the Island, benefited by the seasons to an extent which enables the year to be classified as a good one. The season of growth of the 1926-28 cane was favourable. Wet

conditions after planting at the end of 1926 induced satisfactory germination, and continued rains in most districts resulted in an advanced stage of growth by the month of June, 1927, so that crops produced, in tons of sugar, a quantity considerably in excess of the average. The total rainfall over the Island for the year 1927 was 64.02 inches or 3.40 inches over the average for 60 years up to and inclusive of 1926, and the rainfall measured at the Government Meteorological Station was 16.75 inches greater than the average of the ten previous years, viz., 42.28 inches. Rain fell on 227 days during the year, the greatest fall recorded at the Station being 3.69 inches on 15th October.

2. The outstanding service of public utility in Barbados continues to be its water supply, and on it depends largely the deal of truth that lies in the belief that Barbados is an exceptionally healthy tropical Colony. The supply is derived solely from rainfall and its quantity is dependent on the annual amount of precipitation on the coralline limestones forming the mass of the highlands of the Island. It is raised by means of wells from the limestone levels which constitute the reservoir for the waters which sink into the ground. These limestones are based on a more or less impervious retaining floor upon which the subterranean waters accumulate and flow to the sea. From wells this water is pumped by modern machinery into reservoirs whence it flows in all directions of supply to the service of the people. Throughout the Island there are placed numerous standpipes from which the peasantry and the masses of the people draw water free of charge. An additional high-power pumping station has recently been erected at a cost of £34,000. In course of time it is hoped to extend the system to populated areas where at present a pipe supply is not immediately handy, and a start has been made in connecting with the supply the numerous elementary schools scattered throughout the Parishes. In many instances water has at present to be carried to these schools from the nearest standpipe.

3. Not altogether unconnected perhaps with the abnormally wet period was the discovery in, and the spread through, the Leeward Parishes of the *Anopheles* mosquito, which hitherto had been unrecorded in Barbados. Its identification was made by Dr. E. A. Seagar, M.B., Ch.B., D.T.M., of the staff of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture at Trinidad, whose services were lent by the Principal of the College, at the request of the Government of Trinidad, for the purpose of investigating the suspected presence of anophelines. With gratifying promptitude also, the Government of Trinidad lent the services of several sanitary inspectors fully experienced in the work of exterminating the carrier of malarial fever to which, at the time, the sanitary organizations of Barbados were entirely unaccustomed. The consequent anti-mosquito campaign was pursued vigorously by the various parochial authorities and a general cleaning up has greatly improved local sanitary

conditions. With the return of normal weather conditions the work of the campaign was greatly facilitated, and the incidence of *anopheles* had by the end of the period under review so diminished that larvae were seldom discovered in recognised breeding places where previously they had been abundantly prevalent or in other places where their presence might have been suspected. It can be said that notwithstanding a general scepticism born of long immunity from endemic or epidemic malarial disease, the responsible sanitary bodies throughout the several Parishes faced the situation seriously and the measures for offence and defence advocated by Dr. J. T. C. Johnson, F.R.C.S., who was selected by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to control the campaign, were put generally into effect by those bodies. On the sustained application of these measures and a steadfast spirit of endeavour will depend the advance of *anopheles* when the rains return. The absence of permanent waterways and streams is a factor greatly in favour of the campaign and *anopheles* is heavily handicapped by this as well as by the porosity of rock and soil. There are, however, swampy areas and other places where drainage is desirable though difficult and the lack of one of the greatest assets in sanitary organization and practice, viz., the services of a Municipal Engineer, may involve parochial authorities in much additional expense and responsibility. Surveys of certain of these areas have been already made for parochial authorities by the Central Government, and the work is being continued. All extraordinary expenditure incurred by parochial boards in connection with the anti-mosquito campaign up to the end of the financial year has been met from funds provided by the Central Government.

4. In Barbados the administration of local affairs is vested in parochial authorities and boards, mainly independent of administrative control, which receive from the Central Government either grants-in-aid for specific purposes or the funds necessary for the conduct of public institutions. These representative bodies continue to perform the functions with which by law they are clothed, and it is certain that they relieve the Central Government of much responsibility and of many of the duties that would otherwise fall within those of the main Executive Authority. Their operations are directed mainly towards the maintenance of health and highways as well as in the provision of adequate means of sustenance for the poor. Parochial revenue amounted collectively during the year to £129,289 and expenditure to £130,164. The total cost of poor relief was £76,981 of which £37,285 was raised and expended by parochial authorities. Special grants for general revenue to the Parishes for highways purposes amounted to £13,500 in excess of those for which the law provides, and the total expended by Parochial Commissioners was £23,453. The total indebtedness of the Parishes under loans raised from time to time for various purposes was, at the end of the financial year, £24,693.

5. No changes have occurred in currency. Accounts are kept in sterling by Government Departments and in dollars and cents by banking and commercial houses. British coin is legal tender and the chief medium of circulation, and British silver is legal tender to an unlimited amount. There is in addition a local dollar paper currency, the exchange value being fixed at \$4.80 to the pound sterling.

6. British imperial standard weights and measures are everywhere employed.

II.—FINANCE.

Revenue and Expenditure.

1. The following table shows the revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the past five years :—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1923-24	444,646	420,461
1924-25	504,696	364,530
1925-26	404,132	394,249
1926-27	387,462	418,711
1927-28	414,884	481,252

In these amounts are included receipts and payments on account of loans. If these amounts are deducted, the ordinary revenue for the year 1927-28 was £413,172, as compared with £379,286 for 1926-27, and the ordinary expenditure £479,540, compared with £410,536. Included in the figures are several large items of capital expenditure which it is proposed to transfer to loan account. Authority for a further loan has recently been sanctioned.

The balance in the Treasury, apart from the reserve funds set out hereunder, on the 31st of March, 1928, was £48,919.

Special Funds.

	£	s.	d.
Public Buildings Insurance Fund	43,417	17	1
Water Boat Renewal Fund	8,696	10	1
Red Cross Fund	1,456	16	5
Public Officers Security Fund	5,089	10	1
Special Reserve Fund	100,000	0	0
Pension Act, 1925	21,281	5	0
	£179,941	18	8

REVENUE.

2. The revenue for 1927-28 shows an increase of £27,422 over that of the previous year, the principal Heads showing increases being Customs £27,608; Excise £6,939; Post Office £1,004; Special Receipts £1,926; Railway £1,552; while the largest decreases occur under Reimbursements-in-aid £6,625 and Income Tax £6,328. The

increase under all heads was £41,353, while the decrease was £13,932. The rise in Customs Receipts is due in considerable part to an increase in the duty payable in respect of the importation of leaf tobacco used in the local manufacture of cigarettes and pipe tobacco.

EXPENDITURE.

3. The expenditure for 1927-28, excluding loan disbursements, was £479,540, an increase of £69,004 over the previous year. The total expenditure for the year exceeded that of the previous year by £62,541.

4. The largest spending departments are the Police, Education, Medical, and Waterworks. The expenditure under these heads was as follows :—

				<i>Compared with</i>	
				1926-27.	
				£	£
Police	...	...	...	46,231, an increase of	2,513
Education	...	...	...	47,519, „ „	4,343
Medical	...	...	...	42,500, „ „	1,534
Waterworks	...	...	...	63,900, „ „	2,616
				<hr/>	
				£200,000.	

The total expenditure on the four departments, £200,000, represents 46 per cent. of the total administration expenses, excluding special charges.

5. Increases occurred under almost all Heads and were more or less due to increments in salaries, as well as bonus additions now included under personal emoluments, and to increased votes for certain incidental expenses. The main increase, however, was incurred in respect of restoration of roads. The additional sum so expended amounted to £44,650 and was charged to surplus. The question as to the proportion of road charges involved in the work of reconstruction now being carried out which may properly be allocated to loan funds has yet to be decided.

6. The total increases in expenditure under all heads was £64,490 and decreases £1,958, showing a net increase of £62,532 over 1926-27.

PUBLIC DEBT.

7. The Public Debt remained the same at the 31st March, 1928, as at 31st March, 1927, viz., £591,000, the Sinking Fund on that date being £307,759 as compared with £286,780 in 1927. The accumulated sinking fund for the Water Works Loan of £375,000 was at the end of the financial year potentially full, and provision for further accretions to the fund are, for the present and as far as can be seen, no longer necessary. The Loan position and the operation of sinking funds at the end of March, 1928, were as follows :—

<i>Name of Loan.</i>	<i>Amount of Loan.</i>			<i>Amount outstanding.</i>			<i>Sinking Fund.</i>			<i>Date Redeemable.</i>
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Water Works Loan Act ...	375,000	0	0	375,000	0	0	258,047	5	8	15th March, 1928.
Public Works Loan Act ...	92,000	0	0	32,000	0	0	27,147	1	6	{ £6,000 July, 1928. £6,000 June to October, 1929. £6,000 October, 1930. £14,000 November, 1932.
Public Loan Act, 1914, and Reimbursement Acts, 1914 and 1916 ...	37,000	0	0	37,000	0	0	6,604	6	4	{ £11,000 November, 1961. £6,000 July, 1963. £20,000 February, 1964.
Public Loan Act, 1914, and Reimbursement Act, 1917, Special Loan Act, 1917 (No. 2), Special Loan Act, 1920, and Special Loan (Amendment) Act, 1922, Special Loan Act, 1922 ...	147,000	0	0	147,000	0	0	15,961	1	1	{ £35,000 August, 1964. £30,000 February, 1965. £40,000 March, 1968. £25,000 April, 1969. £17,000 May, 1969.

8. *Government Savings Bank*.—On the 31st December, 1927, there were 11,970 depositors, the total sum to their credit being £603,954. The value of the invested funds was £729,088. The figures for 1926 were : deposits £623,746, invested funds £729,802, and number of depositors 11,644. The number of depositors increased by 326, and there was an increase of £21,426 in the amount deposited.

9. *Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank*.—This Bank was established in 1906, with a grant of £80,000 made by the Imperial Government, to assist the sugar industry of the Colony.

Loans and Interest outstanding at 31st May, 1928, which are secured as a first lien against the land of the several borrowers, were made in the following years, and are due as under.

	Loans.			Interest.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
" 1921 " due from 15 Borrowers ...	23,583	16	9½	1,308	18	1
" 1924 " " 1 Borrower ...	450	0	0	27	0	0
" 1925 " " 6 Borrowers ...	6,146	0	2	337	8	8½
" 1926 " " 9 Borrowers ...	6,643	2	5	321	3	9
" 1927 " " 4 Borrowers ...	860	11	6½	71	18	4½
" 1928 " " 38 Borrowers ...	28,503	10	11	590	16	5½
	£66,187	1	10	£2,657	5	4½

The capital on the Bank on the 31st May, 1928, was £181,011 8s. 3d., as compared with £177,910 in 1927.

10. The business done for the year exceeds that of the previous years, the loans made being £188,185, to 119 borrowers, as compared with £174,430, to 115 borrowers, in 1926-27, and £170,890, to 113 borrowers in 1925-26. The expenditure for the year was £1,968 and the profit £6,101, as compared with £1,903 and £5,987 for the year ended 31st May, 1927.

III.—PRODUCTION.

Agriculture.

1. *Sugar*.—According to Customs returns for the year 1927, 50,220 tons of vacuum-pan sugar crystals, 2,885 tons of muscovado sugar, and 8,258,690 wine gallons of molasses were exported. The value of these exports, £1,242,335, was made up as follows:—

<i>Sugar</i>		<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	
Dark Crystals	...	50,220 ¹⁷	£765,868	
Muscovado	...	2,885 ⁴	49,769	
		53,106 ¹		£815,637
<i>Molasses.</i>		<i>Gallons.</i>		
Fancy	...	7,294,202	£410,299	
Choice	...	501,640	12,541	
Vacuum	...	462,848	3,858	
		8,258,690		£426,698
				£1,242,335

The following table gives a comparison in terms of sugar alone (equating fancy molasses thereto) of the exports for the past five years :—

	<i>Tons.</i>					
1923	62,711
1924	54,493
1925	65,567
1926	64,431
1927	72,301

It is estimated that approximately 35,000 acres are under sugar-cane annually.

The average prices obtained for sugar, and its by-products, are as follows :—

	1923.			1924.			1925.			1926.			1927.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Sugar, per ton ...	25	10	0	24	10	0	14	10	0	12	5	0	15	5	0
Molasses, per gallon	1	3		1	7		1	0		9					11
Rum, per gallon ...	2	0		2	0		2	0		2	1		2	1	

The value and destination of sugar and molasses shipped from the Colony was as follows :—

	<i>Sugar.</i>			<i>Molasses.</i>		
	£			£		
United Kingdom	113,242		3,946
Canada	684,519		239,705
Newfoundland	2		27,566
United States of America	—		55,321
Holland	1,963		—
Elsewhere	15,896		153

The value of these commodities exported was more in 1927 than in 1926 by £221,818 and £115,953 respectively.

2. *Cotton.*—The total number of acres planted in cotton for the season 1926-27 was 3,526, and the approximate total yield was 787,394 lb. of seed cotton, the general yield of the Island being 223 lb. seed cotton per acre. The lint percentage obtained was 24.3, the yield of cotton seed 576,766 lb., and the yield of lint 191,337 lb., the loss being approximately 19,291 lb.

From the Customs returns it is ascertained that for the year from 1st October, 1926, to 30th September, 1927, there were exported 359 bales of lint, weighing 187,709 lb. and valued at £25,809 19s. 9d., and seven bales of linters, weighing 3,114 lb. and valued at £77 17s. The value of 576,766 lb. of cotton seed at \$40.00 per ton is £2,145 14s. 2d. The approximate total value of the cotton crop of the Island for 1926-27 is therefore £28,033 10s. 11d. Cotton crops in Barbados run from the 1st October of one year to the 30th September of the following

year. The following is a comparative statement covering the last two crop years :—

	<i>Crop of</i> 1925-26.	<i>Crop of</i> 1926-27.	<i>Decrease.</i>
Acres	3,676	3,526	150
Quantity (lint) lb.	298,715	187,709	111,006
Value	£46,052	£25,810	£20,242

Apart from the necessity, due to market conditions, for restricting the output of cotton, the industry is affected by the existence of disease and pests which are practically uncontrolled. Energetic steps, however, are being taken to remove or curtail these disabilities, and the Department of Agriculture is now strengthened in its efforts by recently enacted legislation on the subject. The average prices obtained for cotton during the last five years are :—

	<i>Per lb.</i>	
	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1923	1	10.
1924	2	1
1925	2	1
1926	2	8½
1927	2	5½

Mining.

3. A small quantity of manjak is mined and exported. The industry, however, remains undeveloped, and it appears that deposits are not explored or worked to an extent which their occurrence may justify.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

1. The value of the total trade of the Colony as well as that of imports and exports is shown in the following table :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Imports.</i> £	<i>Exports.</i> £	<i>Total Trade.</i> £
1923	2,521,982	2,189,740	4,711,722
1924	2,556,297	1,858,301	4,414,598
1925	2,293,777	1,421,035	3,714,812
1926	2,153,167	1,287,161	3,440,328
1927	2,278,243	1,603,531	3,881,774

2. The value of goods imported and entered for transhipment was £33,903 more than in 1926. The following are the figures for the last five years :—

	£
1923	230,048
1924	193,655
1925	225,023
1926	133,966
1927	167,869

3. Imports during 1927 show an increase over 1926 of £125,076. The increase is due mainly to imports of cotton manufactures (£42,092), machinery (£34,996), manures (£20,350), cotton seed for pressing (£11,725), and motor-cars (£10,934). The articles of import in which the main decreases occurred were coal (£29,462), tobacco (all kinds) £12,297, beans and peas (£9,690), and oilmeal, etc. (£7,548). For the five years prior to 1927 the average quantity of coal taken by steamships was 27,741 tons. In 1927 the number of tons so taken was 26,786. The following figures relate to the export of coal during the last five years :—

						<i>Steamships. Tons of coal.</i>	
1923	...	...	...	...	...	111	29,628
1924	...	...	...	...	...	97	23,258
1925	...	...	...	...	...	121	30,895
1926	...	...	...	...	...	150	32,702
1927	...	...	...	...	...	127	26,786

4. The United Kingdom continues to be the country of origin whence comes the largest proportion of imports into the Colony. The following figures show the distribution of the Colony's import trade :—

		1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
		%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom	...	32·9	33·0	36·3	30·9	33·5
Canada	...	24·1	22·4	20·9	20·5	19·3
Other parts of the British Empire.		16·6	15·1	15·2	18·5	18·5
United States of America	...	19·6	21·4	18·7	21·6	19·9
Other Foreign Countries	...	6·8	8·1	88·9	8·5	8·8

The value of imports from the above-named places for 1927, exclusive of bullion and specie, was as follows :—

		£
United Kingdom	...	764,320
Canada	...	439,350
Other parts of the British Empire	...	420,737
United States of America	...	453,710
Other Foreign Countries	...	200,126

5. Total imports are classified as follows :—

		£
Food, drink, etc.	...	797,322
Raw Materials	...	376,281
Manufactured Articles	...	1,015,183
Miscellaneous	...	89,457
		£2,278,243
Specie	...	21,865
		£2,300,108

6. The value of the principal articles imported from Canada as compared with the United States of America is as follows :—

		<i>Canada.</i>	<i>U.S.A.</i>
		£	£
Boots and Shoes	... ..	10,608	2,026
Butter	... ..	5,111	1,877
Oilmeal (cattle food)	... ..	38,948	1,372
Coal	... ..	—	39,858
Cornmeal	... ..	3,170	25,245
Fish (salted)	... ..	24,687	—
Flour	... ..	86,561	21,068
Oats	... ..	29,695	400
Manures	... ..	12,553	40,059
Salt beef	... ..	1,029	17,100
Pork	... ..	13,614	11,792
Wood (various)	... ..	46,917	27,089

7. The total value of exports was £1,603,531, of which £1,313,006 represents the value of the produce and manufactures of the Colony and £290,525 the value of items re-exported. As compared with the four previous years the quantity and value of the principal articles of local produce exported are as follows :—

	<i>1927.</i>		<i>1926.</i>		<i>1925.</i>	
	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
		£		£		£
Sugar (tons) ...	53,106	815,637	45,786	293,819	41,308	998,076
Molasses (gals.)	8,258,690	1,242,335	7,760,334	310,745	5,987,453	524,927
Cotton (lb.) ...	187,709	25,810	315,192	40,627	431,152	36,113
Rum (gals.) ...	22,225	2,315	18,692	1,947	12,645	1,370

	<i>1924.</i>		<i>1923.</i>	
	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
		£		£
Sugar (tons) ...	48,058	1,255,969	33,809	503,192
Molasses (gals.)...	6,359,158	594,557	7,390,409	409,984
Cotton (lb.) ...	448,300	39,574	194,199	17,776
Rum (gals.) ...	10,105	1,010	7,873	816

In addition to the rum exported, the quantity consumed locally during the year amounted to 246,680 gallons.

8. The value of minor exports locally produced or manufactured was as follows :—

	£
Bay Rum	825
Biscuits	15,840
Cotton Seed Meal	1,503
Fruits (Tamarind)	5,352
Hides and Skins	3,911
Lime, " building "	6,839
Manjak	1,485
Oils (edible)	1,880
Vegetables, fresh	8,306

9. The following table gives the value of the domestic exports to the various countries for the past five years :—

	1923. £	1924. £	1925. £	1926. £	1927. £
United Kingdom ...	427,677	205,921	204,970	247,987	141,078
Canada	1,280,543	1,182,971	767,619	593,474	1,024,297
Other parts of British Empire.	121,593	83,297	97,001	70,152	76,489
United States of America.	53,048	101,190	54,909	61,756	58,279
Other Foreign Countries.	15,100	17,962	19,895	15,008	11,887
Stores (ships) ...	—	—	—	—	976
	£1,897,961	£1,591,341	£1,144,394	£988,377	£1,313,006

The percentage of increases and decreases of the exports to the above places as compared with 1926 are :—

	<i>Increase. Per cent.</i>	<i>Decrease. Per cent.</i>
United Kingdom	—	14·3
Canada	17·9	—
Other parts of the British Empire	—	1·2
United States of America	—	1·8
Other Foreign Countries	—	0·6

Competitive conditions favour generally the Dominion of Canada which, as indicated above, has absorbed wholly that portion of the Colony's produce represented by the falling off in exports to the United Kingdom and other places named. Freight rates, reciprocal trade relations, and marketing conditions are factors all of which tend increasingly to open still further the outlet for Colonial products in the markets of the Dominion but, while this is so and notwithstanding the higher freights charged in respect of the carriage of goods from the United Kingdom, the distribution of imports shows marked improvement only in so far as the United Kingdom is concerned.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Shipping.

1. The number of vessels which entered the port during the year was 1,226 with a net tonnage of 1,885,346, as compared with 1,176 vessels with a tonnage of 1,904,548 during the previous year. In addition, four ships of war and seven yachts visited the port. The number of seamen engaged at the port during the year was 3,679, while 3,441 were discharged. The estimated amount of money earned during the year as wages by seamen belonging to, and engaging in, the Colony for service of ships was £53,341. as compared with £50,000 for 1926-27. During the year no subsidies were paid for shipping services. The central position of Barbados

secures ample sea communications. Vessels proceeding from England to Trinidad, British Guiana, Jamaica, the mainland ports of the north coast of South America, and the Panama Canal call at Barbados *en route* and again on their return to England. The steamship lines serving the Colony are the Harrison and the Leyland Lines from Liverpool direct and the Harrison Line from Glasgow monthly and from London fortnightly. The Royal Dutch West India Line runs a regular fortnightly service from Amsterdam to Bridgetown, touching at Dover on the outward journey and at Plymouth on the return. These vessels, after leaving Barbados, proceed via ports to Colon. The Elders and Fyffes Line of steamers make monthly sailings from Avonmouth to Bridgetown. The duration of voyage from England varies from 12 to 15 days. The Canadian National Steamships make fortnightly sailings from Halifax or Montreal via Bermuda and the Leeward Islands, and cargo steamers of the same line arrive frequently from Canadian and West Indian ports. The Canadian National Steamships Company has evolved from the Canadian Government Merchant Marine, and is operated in connexion with the Canadian National Railways. The two passenger ships at present employed, viz., the "Canadian Skirmisher" and "Canadian Pathfinder," are vessels of 8,000 tons each and are fitted for first, second and third class passengers; the "Canadian Volunteer" and "Canadian Carrier" are freight steamers of 4,400 tons each and are not fitted with first and second class accommodation. All four steamers, however, carry a limited number of deckers. New steamers are expected to be ready toward the end of the year, when a regular fortnightly service from Canada to Barbados via Bermuda and the British northern islands will be maintained by well-equipped modern ships. The large and well-equipped steamers of Lamport and Holt Limited call fortnightly at Bridgetown on their journeys between New York and South American ports. They convey the bulk of the mails between the United States of America and Barbados, the duration of voyage from New York occupying seven days. In addition to these, the Bermuda and West Indies Steamship Company and the Clyde Line operate monthly between New York and the Colony. The former carry passengers and freight and the latter are freight steamers with but a limited passenger accommodation. The Ocean Dominion Steamship Corporation and Pickford and Black Limited have also inaugurated a Canada and West Indies Service both south bound and north bound.

Railways.

2. A light railway 24 miles long runs through the southern Parishes and along the east coast. This railway, which was formerly operated by a Company, was acquired by Government in 1916 and is now conducted by a Board of Management whose funds

are derived from the Central Government. Provision made for the working of the railway during the year amounted to £12,500. The actual expenditure including extraordinary outlay was £17,283 and the actual revenue £12,865.

Roads.

3. The Island is a network of roads which lead in all directions. Their maintenance in rural parishes is vested in the respective Highways Commissioners. That the work of these Commissioners in maintaining highways is inadequate is due largely to inability, owing to insufficient funds and the lack of skilled engineering assistance, to undo the damage to which the highways, built originally for light traffic, are now continuously subjected by heavy and modern motor vehicles. At a time when the road traffic of the Island was less than at present, and when, before the advent of self-propelled vehicles, it was of a lighter character, Barbados was justly proud of its highways but, with fast and heavy motor transport, roads have become steadily worse and the Colony is confronted by the problems and difficulties co-incidental everywhere with the development of modern methods of transport. As stated elsewhere in this report the Island contains approximately 166 square miles of land all of which is closely occupied, and this comparatively small area is served by no less than 120 miles of main roads and approximately 300 miles of cross roads and by-roads in more or less constant use.

The first definite step towards relieving the situation with which the Parochial Boards were met was the passing by the Legislature in 1926 of an Act constituting a Central Road Board with power under certain prescribed conditions to assume control of, and reconstruct, roads radiating from Bridgetown and traversing the parishes. These were classified as arterial roads, and early in 1927 operations on portions of them were commenced. To the Central Road Board there was assigned later in the year the additional task of repairing and maintaining the roads of the "Home" Parish of Saint Michael wherein the traffic of the Island converges. The additional responsibilities thus placed upon the Board served in a measure to curtail progress in the work of reconstruction for which primarily it was established. Funds for highways purposes are obtained from grants from general revenue provided by statute and from taxes. The statutory grant to Parishes amounts to a sum of £5,450 a year and this provision was augmented by additional grants during the year amounting to £13,500, making a total grant from Government of £18,950. The amount raised by parochial taxation was approximately £12,200, so that the total expenditure excluding that incurred in respect of the reconstruction programme and special repairs to Saint Michael's roads was £40,155. Funds voted to the Central Road Board for reconstruction purposes amounted during the year to £29,000, and for repairs to Saint Michael's roads £17,500, so that the total sum made available for

highways purposes during the year amounted to approximately £86,655. The Central Road Board and each of the Parochial Road Boards conduct their operations independently of each other, and with a view to economy and co-ordination of effort proposals have been made whereby some degree of co-operation between the various Road Authorities may be brought into effect. It is, in any case, certain that expenditure on highways cannot be maintained at the level reached during the year under review without recourse to further taxation. Motor omnibuses ply between Bridgetown and suburbs, and all Parishes provide an efficient means of internal transport.

Postal, etc.

4. The postal service is well-organized and efficient. Steps were taken during the year towards expediting the delivery at the General Post Office of mails arriving from overseas. A daily delivery of mails in each Parish is in operation. Mail matter is received and despatched by steamers and sailing vessels as occasion offers. The basic rate of postage on letters within the Colony and to the United Kingdom and elsewhere is 1d. per oz.

The number of ships bringing and taking mails is given below, as compared with 1926 :—

	<i>Steamers</i>		<i>Sailing Ships.</i>	
	1926.	1927.	1926.	1927.
Mails for Barbados	437	453	44	31
Mails from Barbados	428	440	105	88

5. There are three telegraph systems in operation in the Colony, viz. :—the Pacific Cable Board (West Indian System), with their direct cable via Turks Island, cables to Trinidad and British Guiana, and wireless stations in the Windward and Leeward Islands; the West India and Panama Telegraph Company Limited maintaining its old service; and the Western Union Telegraph Company to Miami, and the Western Telegraph Company to Brazil.

6. All parts of the Island are connected by telephone with Bridgetown, the service being conducted by a private Company.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

1. The Statutes of Barbados are, in the main, similar to those of England, and the superior Courts are prescribed over by a Chief Justice. Inferior jurisdiction is vested in a Judge of the Petty Debt Court in Bridgetown and seven Police Magistrates, five of whom in rural districts have jurisdiction in civil matters. From their decisions and judgments there lies an appeal to the Assistant Court of Appeal composed of three judges. Besides its appellate jurisdiction this Court possesses limited equitable and probate jurisdiction. The cost of maintaining Legal Departments during the year was £12,975.

2. The Police Force, under the command of an Inspector-General (who is also Commandant of the Local Forces), consists of 408 officers and men, the numbers having been brought up to full statutory strength during the year. An efficient Band is attached

to the Force. The Inspector-General of Police is charged also with the control of a Fire Brigade consisting of 25 men.

3. Glendairy Prison, in the Parish of Saint Michael, is the only convict prison. It is divided into two sections, one for each of the sexes, and is a highly efficient and well-conducted institution. Juvenile adult prisoners are classified and segregated from adults, and instruction is given in carpentry, tailoring, cement work, baking, and other crafts. In regard to criminal statistics, prison records for 1927 show a reduction in excess of the number of commitments. A notable feature is the continued diminution in the number of convictions for prædial larceny, an offence which appears to be made singularly easy by prevailing conditions. The following is a comparative statement of convictions for the last three years :—

	1925.	1926.	1927.
Total number of persons committed to prison ...	1,208	1,249	831
Sentenced to terms of one year or more ...	33	43	41
Daily average in prison (males) ...	172	187	144
Daily average in prison (females) ...	39	36	24
Police Court convictions ...	10,856	10,775	9,839
Police Court convictions for prædial larceny ...	586	504	348
Convictions by Superior Court ...	62	77	50
Convictions by Superior Court for prædial larceny...	—	—	—

During the year a scheme for the after-care of discharged prisoners was inaugurated and promises to be of material advantage. The scheme was made possible by the willing co-operation of the local branch of the Salvation Army, the officers of which have undertaken to perform the duties involved in this welfare work. Proposals made to the Legislature for the adoption of a system of probation for first offenders have not as yet been adopted.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Apart from operations connected with the erection of the new high-power pumping station at The Belle, no public works of importance were undertaken during the year by the Central Government. Work at this new station progressed favourably but was hindered by unavoidable delay in the fulfilment of requisitions for supplies from England. A large secondary school for girls in Saint Michael was erected during the year under contract let by the Education Board.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The total population on the 31st December, 1927, was estimated to be 168,299. The death-rate during the year was 20·21 per thousand of the population, and the birth-rate 31·59. The following are the figures for the last five years :—

	<i>Birth-rate.</i>	<i>Illegitimate birth-rate.</i>	<i>Death-rate.</i>
1923	37·44	70·1	37·11 per 1,000
1924	32·91	68·24	29·54 " "
1925	34·85	70·92	29·46 " "
1926	31·32	68·83	29·62 " "
1927	31·59	66·81	20·21 " "

The death-rate is the lowest for the last decade, and the rate of infant mortality was less by 36 per cent. than during 1926. A notable and gratifying feature is the gradual decrease of uncertified deaths. In 1925 9·4 per cent. of deaths were uncertified, as compared with 5·8 per cent. for 1926 and 4·3 per cent. for 1927. Under the age group 1-5 years the percentage of deaths was 44·4 per cent. of the total number of deaths. The rate of infant mortality for the past five years is as follows :—

							<i>Infant deaths per 1,000 births.</i>
1923	...	...	...	...	...	...	371
1924	...	...	...	...	...	...	298
1925	...	...	...	...	...	...	312
1926	...	...	...	...	...	...	314
1927	...	...	...	...	...	...	201

The central clinic of the Infant Welfare League continues to do useful work. At least two Parochial Medical Officers, of their own volition, attend infants free of charge, and judging by the numbers seen by them their efforts meet with enthusiastic response. There were entered at the clinic 283 infants during the year. Of this number 51 died, syphilis being accountable for 35·2 per cent. of the number of deaths. The clinic, however, is hampered by lack of adequate funds, which consist at present of a grant of £150 a year from the Treasury and one of £100 a year from the Saint Michael's Vestry. Private donations during the year amounted to £17 10s.

The following table gives the principal causes of death, as compiled from the returns made under the Registration of Deaths Act :—

<i>Causes.</i>	<i>Actual number of deaths.</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 of total mortality.</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 of estimated population.</i>
Fevers :—			
Enteric	64	18	0·38
Malaria	63	18	0·38
Other (except puerperal) ...	—	—	—
Bowel complaints, including dysentery, diarrhœa, and enteritis.*	369	109	2·2
Pneumonia and bronchitis† ...	262	77	1·6
Kidney diseases	174	51	1·0
Phthisis and other forms of tuberculosis.	176	51	1·0
Diseases peculiar to early infancy	247	73	1·5
Old age	108	32	0·6
Diseases of the heart	291	86	1·8
Syphilis‡	461	136	2·8
Diseases of the nervous system...	278	81	1·7

* 85 per cent. of this were children under three years of age.

† 60 " " " " " "

‡ 87 " " " " " "

The number of deaths from syphilis is 12·7 per cent. less than that recorded during 1926, but the incidence of deaths from that cause is greater than from any other. During the year, auxiliary clinics were established in two of the ten rural parishes and these were supplied with drugs free of charge by the central venereal disease clinic which is attached to the General Hospital and is given an annual grant from general revenue, amounting in 1927 to £1,200.

Malarial fever occurred in epidemic form for the first time in the history of the Island. At the end of the year there had been 1,164 cases reported and 63 deaths. Two sanitary inspectors specially trained in anti-mosquito work lent by the Government of Trinidad did excellent work, including the training of temporary inspectors in field survey and house inspection. Of the total number of cases, 970 occurred in Saint Michael and the Leeward Parishes of Saint James and Saint Peter. The death-rate was 5·4 per cent. and a large proportion of those dying were elderly people. Contrary to ordinary experience the mortality amongst children was small. The epidemic subsided completely after the cessation of the rainy season.

Bacillary dysentery and infantile diarrhoea usually occur in epidemic form during the rainy season, but in 1927 comparatively few cases were seen.

The following table gives the cases of enteric fever notified during the last five years :—

1923	...	...	...	...	...	...	735
1924	...	...	...	...	...	...	762
1925	...	...	...	...	...	...	432
1926	...	...	...	...	...	...	441
1927	...	...	...	...	...	...	348

The value of prophylactic inoculation is slowly being realized and it is this method of prevention more than to any very definite improvement in sanitary conditions that the incidence of this disease is gradually lessening.

Five cases of leprosy were notified during the year and five other cases sought admission to the leper asylum voluntarily. Seventeen patients were conditionally discharged during the year. It is hoped that in the future it will be possible to make more adequate provision for the care of discharged patients than is at present possible. In more than one case recently ex-patients have sought re-admission on account of destitution. A scheme for the assistance of discharged patients is at present under consideration by the local branch of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association. At the end of the year there were 141 patients at the asylum.

The Colony is still without the services of a Chief Medical Officer, but a recent enactment has made provision for such an appointment and of the appointment as well of a Chief Sanitary Officer, both under the direct control of the Central Government. It is

hoped that reform in public health matters will be greatly facilitated by the filling of these new posts with whole-time officers of experience. For the time being the medical officers employed by the Vestries are part-time salaried officers whose duties consist broadly of bi-weekly visits to the parochial almshouse and attendance upon outdoor paupers whose names are entered on the list of poor.

IX.—EDUCATION.

1. The schools of the Island, though largely assisted, and, in the case of elementary schools, almost entirely maintained by Government grants, are not Government schools in the ordinary sense. They are controlled, however, by a Board of Education consisting of nine persons appointed by the Governor, of whom seven must be members of the Legislature. The Inspectors of Schools and office staff are appointed by the Board. Each elementary school is under the direction of a local committee consisting of the clergyman of the district and two others nominated by the Board. Contributions towards the maintenance of elementary school buildings are made from parochial funds.

2. There are three grades of schools recognised by the Board, viz., elementary, of which there were 129 in 1927; second-grade, six in number, five for boys and one for girls; and three first-grade schools—Harrison College and the Lodge School for boys, and Queen's College for girls. Harrison College and Queen's College are situated in Bridgetown, the Lodge School in the parish of Saint John. The Lodge School is the only school coming within the scope of the education system at which boarders are accommodated. There is, however, at Saint John also a school for girls, the Codrington High School, which accommodates boarders. At this School attend many girls from the various islands of the West Indies. It is a well-conducted private institution. The elementary schools are annually classified as first, second, or third class schools according to the standard of efficiency attained.

3. The number of children on the school registers in 1927 was 22,732 and the average attendance 14,649, which, notwithstanding the temporary closing of several schools owing to the malaria epidemic, shows an increase over the two previous years.

4. Codrington College, founded in 1710 under the will of General Christopher Codrington, a Barbadian, is under the control of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel and is affiliated to the University of Durham. Its students are admissible to all Degrees, Licences, and Academical ranks in the several Faculties of that University. The College staff consists of a Principal and two Professors, who lecture to a number of students varying from 15 to 20. The Government provides at the College two scholarships annually to the value of £40 per annum and tenable for

three years. The College buildings were destroyed by fire in May, 1926, but provision has been made for carrying on its courses until restoration can be effected.

5. The total grant for Education purposes exclusive of the cost of the Government Industrial School for boys and the Reformatory for girls in 1927 was £46,148, of which £1,284 was the cost of office staff, etc.; £8,660 grants to first and second grade schools, £692 for University education, and £35,038 for elementary schools, the remainder being for incidental expenses.

6. Of the £35,038 allocated to elementary schools, the cost of salaries of teachers amounted to £28,103. The total fees collected from elementary pupils for the year was £1,905. It was decided during the year to abolish fees payable by pupils at elementary schools, and education at these institutions is now free.

7. School gardens are cultivated at some of the elementary schools, and at the local Agricultural Exhibition, held annually by the Department of Agriculture for peasant proprietors and school children, there is generally a large display of exhibits from these schools.

8. Under the trade apprenticeship bursaries system, prescribed by the Apprenticeship Bursaries Act, 1924 (1924-31), 12 apprentices completed their first year's, 12 their second year's, and 10 their third year's course. The course of training lasts from three to five years, according to the trade chosen, but probably neither this system nor the modicum of manual training obtainable at some of the schools is at present of more than ordinary benefit. Under the bursaries system the training of apprentices is left entirely to the assistance of men engaged in work themselves and is not as yet supplemented by special instruction in theory and drawing, etc., during working hours. Masters and apprentices are paid from public funds allowances varying from £4 to £8 15s. a year. The whole question of technical training in the schools is under review by the Board of Education. The aptitude of the Barbadian as a skilled worker is abundantly in evidence, and it is by the development of this feature that he can hope to advance if, as may easily be the case, he should some day meet with disappointment in securing employment in Barbados of a kind sufficient to place him on a higher social plane than that from which, in the peculiar circumstances of life in his over-populated country, he may otherwise find it difficult to emerge. For the present the education system provides for each succeeding vacant junior clerkship in the Public Service a comparatively large number of well-educated candidates of whom some have reached to the highest educational standards attainable locally and many have for considerable periods been unsuccessful in obtaining clerical appointments.

9. The three first-grade schools enter candidates for the Oxford and Cambridge Higher Certificates, School Certificate, and Lower Certificate Examinations, as well as for the Cambridge Local. The second-grade schools enter for the Junior Cambridge Local School Certificate Examinations.

10. The Rawle Training Institute for training elementary teachers is carried on in conjunction with Codrington College. There were six male and six female teachers undergoing training during the year, and since its establishment in 1912 eighty-seven teachers, fifty-three male and thirty-four female, have passed through the Institute. Of these, sixty-seven (thirty-six male and thirty-one female) are serving in the Colony. The Institute receives an annual grant from the Government of £450. The question for creating more ample means for the training of teachers is occupying the attention of the Board of Education. Proposals for the adoption of a scheme for the medical and dental inspection of school children had not been finalised at the close of the year, and the details of these proposals have yet to be developed. At the Boys Industrial School and the Girls Reformatory the number of inmates was 142 and 29 respectively. During the year, the Salvation Army undertook the after-care of youths and girls on discharge from these institutions, providing them with temporary accommodation, finding them employment when possible, and keeping in subsequent touch with them. Provision to meet the actual out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the Salvation Army in connection with the scheme has now been included in the Colonial Estimates. In addition to school and religious instruction, boys are taught certain crafts, including carpentry, tailoring, and masonry, and are given some instruction in agriculture and the care of animals. Under the instruction of a Seamstress Matron, girls at the Reformatory make all the clothing required at the institution, and classes are held in plain and fancy work. During the year, cooking was added to the curriculum.

The health at both institutions has been good.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

The whole Island of Barbados is fully developed and occupied. There are no waste lands. The total area of the Colony is 106,470 acres. Records respecting the size and numbers of holdings are not available. There are but 46 acres under forest timber. For many years the trees in this area have been protected by statute. The geological structure and surface features of Barbados were interestingly described in 1890 by Messrs. Harrison and Jukes Brown, who prepared also the only geological map of the Island. No further geological survey, however, is contemplated.

XI.—LABOUR.

Notwithstanding the emigration which takes place annually to Cuba and other West Indian islands there is an abundant supply of labour for the requirements of the Colony. Employment is offered chiefly on plantations and sugar factories, but a considerable number also work on the wharves and in the coaling business. There is no immigration of labour into the Colony.

XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Fifty-one Acts were passed by the Legislature during the year 1927, of which the undermentioned are of special interest :—

1927-2.—The Saint Michael Parish Girls' School Loan Act, 1927.

1927-4.—An Act to provide for the celebration of the Tercentenary of the first Settlement of Barbados by setting apart a day to be observed as a public holiday.

1927-6.—The expulsion of Undesirables Act 1927.

1927-23.—The Mosaic Disease (Eradication) Act 1927.

1927-39.—The Department of Science and Agriculture (Amendment) Act 1927 (No. 2). (Creating the posts of Entomologist £1,000 per annum and Veterinary Officer £500-£600 by £25 per annum).

1927-44.—The Police (Amendment) Act 1927. (Relating to Police Pensions).

D. R. STEWART,
Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
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THE COLONY.

PREFATORY NOTE.

History and Geography.

The Falkland Islands, called by the French Isles Malouines and by the Spaniards Islas Malvinas, were discovered on the 14th of August, 1592, by John Davis in the "Desire," one of the vessels of the squadron sent to the Pacific under Cavendish. They were seen by Sir Richard Hawkins in the "Dainty" on the 2nd of February, 1594, and were visited in 1598 by Sebald Van Weert, a Dutchman, and styled by him the Sebald Islands, a name which they still bear on some of the Dutch maps. Captain Strong in the "Welfare" sailed through between the two principal islands in 1690 and called the passage, where he landed at several points and obtained supplies of wild geese and of fresh water, the Falkland Sound in memory of the well-known Royalist Lucius Cary, Lord Falkland, killed at the battle of Newbury in 1643; and from this the group afterwards took its English name of "Falkland Islands," although this name does not appear to have been given to it before 1745.

The first settlement on the islands was established in 1764 by de Bougainville on behalf of the King of France with a small colony of Acadians transferred from Nova Scotia at Port Louis

in the East Falkland Island on Berkeley Sound. In the following year Captain Byron took possession of the West Falkland Island and left a small garrison at Port Egmont or Saunders Island, which lies off and close to the north coast of the mainland.

The Spaniards, ever jealous of interference by other nations in the southern seas, bought out the French from the settlement at Port Louis, which they renamed Soledad in 1766, and in 1770 forcibly ejected the British from Port Egmont. This action on the part of Spain led the two countries to the verge of war. The settlement was restored, however, to Great Britain in 1771, but was again in 1774 voluntarily abandoned. The Spaniards in turn abandoned their settlement early in the nineteenth century, and the entire group of islands appears for some years to have remained without formal occupation and without inhabitants until in 1829 Louis Vernet, enjoying the nominal protection of the Government of the Republic of Buenos Aires, planted a new Colony at Port Louis in 1829. Vernet saw fit to seize certain vessels belonging to the United States' fishing fleet, and in 1831 his settlement suffered from an American punitive expedition. Finally, in 1833 Great Britain, who had never relaxed her claim to the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands, expelled the few Argentine soldiers and colonists yet remaining at Port Louis and resumed occupation, which has been maintained without break to the present day.

The Colony was under the charge of naval officers engaged in making Admiralty surveys until 1843, in which year a Civil Administration was formed, the headquarters of Government being at Port Louis until 1844, when they were removed to Stanley, then called Port William. Prior to the opening of the Panama Canal, the Falkland Islands lay on the main sea route from Europe through the Straits of Magellan to the west coast of South America, and in the days of sail frequently harboured vessels which had been worsted in the struggle to round Cape Horn. On the 8th of December, 1914, they were the scene of the naval battle in which Sir F. C. Doveton Sturdee defeated and destroyed the German squadron under Admiral Graf Von Spee, and a memorial commemorating this victory was unveiled at Stanley on the 26th of February, 1927.

The Colony is constituted as a Crown Colony with a Government of the usual type, having at its head a Governor and Commander-in-Chief, who is advised by an Executive Council consisting of three official and one unofficial members. The Legislative Council is composed of three official and two unofficial members, the latter being nominated by the Crown. The Colony received a regular grant-in-aid from the Imperial Treasury until 1880 and a special grant for a mail service until 1885, since which date it has been wholly self-supporting.

The population of the Colony is almost exclusively of British descent and the only language spoken is English, although a certain number of Spanish terms are in common use in the sheep-farming industry relating principally to horse management and to topographical description. The monetary units and also the units of weights and measures are the same as in the United Kingdom, and Imperial gold, silver, and copper coinage is alone in circulation. The Colony issues its own currency notes, but Imperial currency notes are without distinction legal tender.

Geographically, the Falkland Islands lie in the South Atlantic Ocean some 300 miles east and somewhat to the north of the Straits of Magellan, between 51° and 53° S. latitude and 57° and 62° W. longitude. In addition to the two main islands, known as the East and the West Falkland, which are divided by the Falkland Sound, running approximately north-east and south-west, the group comprises about 200 smaller islands clustered around them within a space of 120 by 60 miles. The area of the group, as computed by measurement from the Admiralty chart, is as follows:—

	<i>Square Miles.</i>			
East Falkland and adjacent islands	2,580
West Falkland and adjacent islands	2,038
Total area of group	4,618

The islands have a very deeply indentured coast-line and possess many excellent harbours and anchorages. The surface is hilly, attaining its maximum elevation of 2,315 feet in Mount Adam on the West Falkland. There are no rivers navigable at any distance from the coast. The entire country is covered with wild moorland interrupted by outcrops of rock and the peculiar collections of angular boulders called "stone runs" the origin of which is scientifically disputed. There is no cultivation except in the immediate vicinity of the farm settlements and shepherds' houses where vegetables and in a few places oats and hay are grown. The soil is chiefly peat but considerable areas of sand also occur. In comprehensive appearance the Falkland Islands are bleak and inhospitable. Trees are entirely absent and the scenery is said to resemble parts of Scotland and the northern islands. The only town is Stanley, the capital, situated on a natural harbour entered from Port William, at the north-east corner of the group. It has rather less than a thousand inhabitants. Smaller settlements have been established throughout the Colony as the headquarters of the various farm stations into which it is divided; of these the most important is Darwin, the headquarters of the Falkland Islands Company, with a population of about one hundred persons.

The climate is rigorous but healthy. It is rendered trying to people from the United Kingdom on account of the continuous

cold, the lack of sun, and the constant high winds, as well as by the few opportunities afforded for outdoor exercise. The temperature is uniformly low, ranging from 40° to 70° in summer and from 30° to 50° in winter with an annual mean of 42°. The annual rainfall seldom exceeds 25 inches, and although snow falls frequently it does not as a rule lie long. In summer the atmosphere is very dry and the evaporation rapid.

I.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The Colony is devoted solely to sheep farming and all its interests are subordinated and all its energies directed to the production of wool. There is an encouraging tendency among owners and managers to modernize methods and to study the future, which cannot be described as free from anxiety by reason of the decreased carrying capacity of the pastures.

In the Administration the year was marked by numerous changes, foremost among which was the appointment of Mr. Arnold Hodson, C.M.G., to be Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony and its Dependencies in the place of Sir John Middleton, K.B.E., C.M.G., now Governor and Commander-in-Chief in Newfoundland.

The memorial erected at Stanley by public subscription among Falkland Islanders in the Colony and in the United Kingdom to commemorate the Naval Victory of the 8th of December, 1914, was unveiled with due ceremony on the 26th of February, 1928, by the Acting Governor, His Excellency Lieut.-Colonel A. E. Beattie, C.B.E., M.C., and was dedicated by His Lordship the Bishop of the Falkland Islands, the Right Reverend N. S. de Jersey, D.D., in the presence of a landing party from H.M.S. "Capetown" present for the occasion and of the largest number of people believed to have assembled at once in the history of the Colony.

The cost of living remained generally on the high side as in preceding years. In the country, as in any similar pastoral community, it was more moderate, but freight rates made imported provisions expensive, this being felt particularly in the town. A serious shortage of dwelling accommodation began to become evident in Stanley during the year and it was exceedingly difficult to rent a house. For the occasional visitor there are several boarding houses which offer a reasonable degree of comfort and convenience but no hotels exist in the accepted sense of the term.

II.—FINANCE.

Revenue.

The revenue of the Colony for the year 1927 from all sources was £62,069, the revenue from normal sources, excluding the Dependencies share in the cost of the Central Administration, being £41,318. The ordinary revenue exceeded the ordinary expenditure for the year, excluding expenditure on public works of an extraordinary description, by £2,554.

The amount derived from taxation in 1927 was £16,149, as against £16,689 in 1926. Of this sum 50 per cent. approximately was contributed by the sheep-farming interests, 2.5 per cent. by the residents of Stanley, and the remaining 47.5 per cent. generally by the community. No additional taxation was imposed during the year nor was any alteration introduced in the method of raising revenue.

Expenditure.

The ordinary expenditure for 1927, including the sum of £1,878 under Public Works Extraordinary, was £39,936. In addition, the sum of £10,878 was expended out of the surplus balance principally on the scheme for the improvement of the town of Stanley, to which reference is made later in this Report, and £8,802 was disbursed from the Land Sales Fund in connection with the Experimental Farm. As in 1926 the ordinary expenditure, excluding Miscellaneous Services, £5,037, was heaviest under the Port and Marine Department, £5,161, the Public Works Department, Ordinary and Recurrent, £3,207 and £4,335, respectively, and the Medical Department, £3,649.

The following table gives the comparative figures of the expenditure and the revenue for the past five years :—

REVENUE.					EXPENDITURE.				
			Ordinary.	Total.				Ordinary.	Total.
			£	£				£	£
			*					†	
1923	...	...	30,116	47,795	41,068			42,868	
1924	...	...	37,918	59,093	41,701			42,767	
1925	...	...	40,783	57,511	38,191			58,000	
1926	...	...	42,812	59,762	38,216			48,099	
1927	...	...	41,318	62,069	41,814			50,814	

* Excluding the Dependencies share in the cost of Central Administration. at present £9,000 a year.

† Including expenditure under Public Works Extraordinary.

Assets and Liabilities.

The excess of assets over liabilities on the 31st of December, 1927, amounted to £238,155. The following statement shows the balances at the beginning and at the end of the year :—

	<i>1st January. 31st December.</i>	
	£	£
Land Sales Fund	191,781	194,123
Marine Insurance Fund...	2,030	2,636
General Account... ..	41,891	41,396
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£235,702	£238,155
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Currency and Banking.

The legal tender currency is British sterling and a paper currency of 5s., 10s., £1, and £5 notes issued by the Colonial Government under an Order in Council dated the 7th of March, 1899. It is estimated that on the 31st of December, 1926, there was £3,000 of specie in circulation. The issue of currency notes in circulation was unchanged from 1926 on the value of £20,000 at the maximum authorised. The only bank in the Colony is the Government Savings Bank, which, as its name implies, is solely a bank of deposit. The rate of interest paid is $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum. At the close of the Bank's financial year on the 30th of September, 1927, the total sum deposited was £131,166, and the number of deposit accounts 918 as against 897 on the 30th of September, 1926.

General.

The year 1927 was satisfactory financially, while the expenditure from the surplus balance amounted, as stated above, to £10,878. The funds standing to the credit of the general account were reduced by £495 only. The Colony has no public debt.

III.—PRODUCTION.

The sole industry in the Colony is sheep-farming and the sole product wool. Agriculture is barely at the beginning of the experimental stage; there are no forests and but few trees and no fisheries; while no source of mineral wealth suitable for exploitation has yet been discovered. The year 1927 was favourable on the whole to the sheep-farming industry. By reason of the hard season the yield of wool showed a slight decrease, but the prices obtained were in correspondence slightly higher than in 1926, averaging 1s. $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The sole exports are wool and allied substances such as hides and tallow, and the only imports those commodities required for the upkeep of the farms and the maintenance of the population. All foodstuffs with the exception of meat and a limited quantity of dairy and garden produce have to be obtained from abroad.

The following table shows the comparative value of the imports and exports during the past five years :—

		1923. £	1924. £	1925. £	1926. £	1927. £
Imports	... ..	141,080	154,893	161,106	179,229	174,338
Exports	... ..	137,440	267,312	330,454	239,958	247,933
		<u>£278,520</u>	<u>£422,205</u>	<u>£491,560</u>	<u>£419,187</u>	<u>£422,271</u>

Imports.

The following table shows the comparative returns of the import trade under the principal heads during the past five years :—

	1923. £	1924. £	1925. £	1926. £	1927. £
Food, Drink, and Tobacco...	38,813	53,692	49,114	62,895	70,302
Raw Materials and Articles mainly unmanufactured.	12,883	21,685	14,257	16,436	28,056
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured.	81,949	74,791	82,459	92,686	75,240
Live Stock	7,435	4,725	15,251	7,212	715
Bullion and Specie	—	—	25	—	25

The principal articles imported into the Colony during 1927 were :—

	Value. £
Groceries	43,612
Hardware and Machinery...	20,667
Drapery	16,371
Timber	14,954
Paints and Oils	5,055

Approximately 86.6 per cent. of the imports of the Colony came from the United Kingdom and about 1.1 per cent. from New Zealand, to the value of £151,109 and £2,069 respectively. The value of imports from foreign countries amounted to £21,160, as shown below :—

	£
Chile	9,992
Uruguay	5,827
Argentine	3,494
Other Countries	1,847

There are no import duties except on spirits £1 per gallon, wine 3s. per gallon, and beer 6s. per gallon in bulk, tobacco 4s. per lb., and cigars 6s. 9d. a lb. The following is a table of the dutiable imports and the revenue derived :—

				Quantity.	Revenue.
					£
Spirits	...	...	...	6,590 gallons	4,305
Wine	...	...	...	2,064 gallons	218
Beer	...	...	...	15,427 gallons	319
Tobacco	...	...	...	20,811 lbs.	2,772
					<hr/>
					£7,686
					<hr/>

Exports.

Of the total value of the exports for the year 1927 approximately 91.1 per cent. represented the value of the wool exported and a little over 7 per cent. the value of other exported products of the sheep-farming industry. The entire clip of wool was shipped for the United Kingdom.

The following table compares the exports of wool for the past four years, the values being based for Customs' purposes on the bottom prices of the year previous to that of export.

				Quantities exported in lb.	Value exported in £.
1924	...	...	...	4,106,990	253,567
1925	...	...	...	3,361,003	307,740
1926	...	...	...	4,377,385	214,290
1927	...	...	...	3,972,509	236,028

There is an export duty on wool, first imposed in 1924, of 1s. on each 25 lb. of wool exported, in respect of which revenue in the sum of £8,049 was collected during 1927. The greater proportion of the trade of the Colony, both import and export, is conducted by the Falkland Islands Company of which the head offices are situated in London. Other firms of lesser standing, principal among which is the Estate Louis Williams, carry on business mostly importing in Stanley.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Since the opening of the Panama Canal the Falkland Islands have been off the main track of ocean lines and communications with the outside world have been in consequence irregular and at times precarious. Cargo vessels of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company called during the year at intervals of two months, approximately, on their way between Montevideo in Uruguay and the

ports on the west coast of South America in Chile and Peru. In the opposite direction three calls were made by similar ships early in the year in order to lift the wool clip direct for England. In addition, calls were made, as in 1926, by three passenger vessels belonging to the same Company, two outward, or westward, and one homeward, or eastward, bound as well as in special circumstances by two vessels of the Shaw, Savill, and Albion Company sailing between New Zealand, South America, and the United Kingdom. A mail was also received by H.M.S. "Capetown" which visited Stanley in February. With the object of securing a more frequent and regular service of mails between the Colony and Europe and of affording the opportunity in emergency for persons to reach or to leave the Colony arrangements were concluded for the despatch from time to time to Montevideo under contract to the Government of the s.s. "Fleurus" of the Tonsberg Whaling Company which was already engaged on the mail service between the Colony and the Dependency of South Georgia. Two voyages were made and the basis of working settled is that the service shall be supplementary to the previously existing service in such a manner as to ensure that no interval longer than one month more or less shall be allowed to elapse without the reception and the despatch of an overseas mail. As a corollary to this service arrangements have been made with His Majesty's Postmaster-General for the despatch weekly from the United Kingdom of mails for the Colony to Montevideo for collection at that port.

Communications with the Dependency of South Georgia were maintained as in the preceding years by the s.s. "Fleurus" of the Tonsberg Whaling Company, the Government paying a subsidy towards the cost of each voyage performed. The schedule of sailings provides for six voyages between Stanley and Grytviken during the whaling season, i.e., October to May, and for two voyages during the remainder of the year, and also for one voyage early in each year between Stanley and Deception Island in the South Shetlands.

Endeavours were made, furthermore, during 1927 to improve the communications existing between the main East and West Falkland Islands. The service previously provided by the coasting steamer s.s. "Falkland" of the Falkland Islands Company and by local schooners, some of which are and some of which are not fitted with auxiliary motor engines, was augmented by sailings of the s.s. "Fleurus", the object proposed being to arrange that a reliable opportunity for the conveyance of passengers and mails should be afforded at least once every month or six weeks between Stanley and some principal settlement on the West Falkland and at least once every quarter between Stanley and the principal settlements on that Island.

The following table shows the number, nationality, and description of the vessels which entered the Colony from overseas in 1927 :—

<i>Nationality.</i>	<i>Steamships.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>	<i>Sailing-ships.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>
British	20	68,593	—	—
Chile	—	—	5	487
Ecuador	1	1,255	—	—
Finland	—	—	1	2,507
Norway	34	26,651	—	—
	<hr/> 55 <hr/>	<hr/> 96,499 <hr/>	<hr/> 6 <hr/>	<hr/> 2,994 <hr/>

These returns approximate nearly to those for 1926; the Norwegian steamships recorded were all vessels of the whaling fleet which touched at Stanley on their way to and from the fishing grounds in Antarctic waters.

Two wireless stations for external traffic are maintained by the Government, one at Stanley and one at Grytviken in South Georgia. A small station is also maintained by the Government at Fox Bay on the West Falkland Island for inter-insular communication. There are no submarine cables in operation. Telegraph charges to the United Kingdom are 1s. a word via Bergen and 4s. 2d. a word via Montevideo. The postal rate of 1d. per ounce for letters to the United Kingdom still remains in force. It is noteworthy to remark that even throughout the Great War this rate was not increased.

There are no railways in the Colony and no roads outside the town of Stanley. Internal communication is carried out almost entirely by horse or by boat, but recent experiments with caterpillar cars have revealed interesting prospects of future development, which are being investigated both by the farmers and by the Government. There are no inland telegraphs, but a telephone system is run by the Government in Stanley both for official and general use. Many of the farm settlements maintain their own lines which connect on the East Falkland to the Stanley system and on the West Falkland to the Fox Bay wireless station.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

The judicial system of the Colony is limited to a Supreme Court in which the Governor sits alone as Chief Justice, and a Magistrate's Court in Stanley. The majority of the farm managers are Justices of the Peace and as such have power to deal with petty offences. The local Police Force consists of five Constables and a Chief Constable and is stationed entirely at Stanley. The Chief Constable is also gaoler in charge of the gaol in Stanley which accommodates only short-sentence prisoners. During 1927 no crime of a capital nature was brought before the Courts, and in general the Colony boasts an exceptionally clean record in this connection.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The principal undertaking of the Public Works Department during 1927 was the continuation of the scheme for the improvement of the town of Stanley, to which reference has been made in the Report for 1926. Expenditure totalling £6,740 was incurred on the completion of the reservoir and the inception of the water supply system and also on the construction of roads with side walks and drains in various parts of the town. Other public works included the erection of the first of a number of bungalows for occupation by Government officials and the building of a drill hall for the use of the Falkland Islands Defence Force, the latter meeting a long-felt need. The year 1927 was, however, largely a year of re-organization and of preparation for a more ambitious programme in future years.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

As in previous years general diseases were rare with the one exception of tuberculosis which was present to a degree that calls urgently for some form of action to prevent its further spread. The prevalence of this disease would appear to be aggravated to a great extent by inadequate housing conditions and by close inter-marriage. Steps are being taken to alleviate the former evil and it is hoped in the near future to institute bacteriological work in this connection with the view to the successful discovery of the disease in its early stages. Chronic appendicitis is also prevalent among the inhabitants of the Colony, which may be due in part to tubercle and in part to diet. Communicable diseases, mosquito or insect borne, were entirely absent and no acute infectious condition was reported in the Colony during the year. Septic throat and cervical adenitis were troublesome, but it is anticipated that the causes of these diseases will be removed in great measure by the completion of the new drainage system under the Stanley Improvement Scheme. The teeth generally of the people require attention and particular care is being devoted to the dental treatment of the school children, who all receive free attendance. An outbreak of catarrhal cold occurred in the spring of the year—October and November in the southern hemisphere—and its treatment with stock vaccine did not meet with much success. In this case again bacteriological work is indicated with the object of determining the specific vaccine.

The entire population of the Falkland Islands is of European and chiefly of British descent in which Scotch blood is marked. The estimated population at the end of 1927 was 2,286. The birth-rate was 22.31 per 1,000 and the death-rate 9.62 per 1,000 during the year.

IX.—EDUCATION.

The education of children between the ages of five and fourteen years residing in Stanley is compulsory. In Stanley there are two elementary schools, one maintained by the Government and one under Roman Catholic management; provision is also made in these schools for attendance at a continuation class for a two years' course of further education. The children in the country districts are taught by travelling teachers, two of whom were provided during 1927 by the Government and two by the Falkland Islands Company, which corporation maintained in addition a resident teacher at its headquarters station at Darwin.

The number of children under instruction during the year is shewn in the following table :—

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
At the Government School	105	69	174
At the Roman Catholic School	24	56	80
By the Government Travelling Teachers ...	38	27	65
By the Falkland Island Company's Teachers	43	32	75
	<hr/> 210	<hr/> 184	<hr/> 394

The attendance at the Government School in Stanley was exceptionally good throughout the year, averaging the highest figure on record, 91.2 per cent. For the first year since 1922 it was not necessary to close the school on account of illness, and the regular curriculum was carried out free of interruption.

The number of boarders at the Hostel maintained by the Government in Stanley in connection with the school for the benefit of children from the country districts was eleven in 1927 as compared with seven in 1926. This increase is partly attributable to the reduction effected of the inclusive fees charged, but the real advantages afforded by the scheme do not appear even yet to be appreciated by parents in the outlying parts of the Colony. Eight other children from the " Camp " received monthly grants towards the cost of their board in Stanley in private houses for the purpose of attending the school. The problem of the education of " Camp " children is far from a satisfactory solution and measures were considered during the year to remedy the situation, including the provision of additional travelling teachers, especially on the West Falkland.

X.—LAND AND SURVEY.

Practically the entire lands of the Colony are given over to sheep-farming and are in the possession of private persons who for the most part enjoy a freehold either absolute or under purchase from the Government by annual instalments. Certain areas reserved by the Crown are leased on short tenure for a like purpose. No waste lands are available for occupation or development and lands

of any description are difficult to acquire, and then only by special treaty. The Colony has never been surveyed in any detail and the charts of its coasts are somewhat antiquated although they cannot be termed inadequate.

XI.—LABOUR.

The supply of labour in 1927 was approximately equal to the demand and no unemployment occurred. As in 1926, wages on the farm stations ranged from £5 to £8 a month with quarters, fuel, meat, and milk found. Some of the farm managers imported hands in a limited number from the United Kingdom, as the work available in Stanley, coupled with the attractions of the town, tended to act as a deterrent from accepting employment in the "Camp." Labourers in Stanley were paid from £10 a month, or 1s. an hour, and artisans from £10 to £20 a month, or 1s. 4½d. an hour. Wages of domestic servants varied from £2 10s. to £4 a month with all found.

XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

No event of outstanding interest or importance is to be recorded during 1927 which has not been noticed in a previous chapter of this Report. The R.R.S. "Discovery" and the R.S.S. "William Scoresby" visited Stanley during the year in the course of their scientific operations in Antarctic waters. As a reminder of the old days of sail the Finnish barque "Fennia" which was worsted in the struggle to round Cape Horn in May put into Stanley in distress and has since been abandoned and sold as a storage hulk. The Governor gave a Christmas party and play, "The Troubles of Santa Claus," to which all the children of the Colony were invited. The play proved so popular that repeated performances were staged into the following year. The annual Race Meeting for the East Falkland, held at Stanley in Christmas week, was especially enjoyable on account of the unusually fine weather prevailing—the conditions were, indeed, said to be the most favourable for some years past.

DEPENDENCIES.

PREFATORY NOTE.

History and Geography.

The Dependencies are divided into two main groups, the one consisting of South Georgia with the South Orkneys and the South Sandwich Islands, and the other of the South Shetlands with Graham's Land.

South Georgia and the South Shetland Islands were sighted and taken possession of for Great Britain by Captain Cook in 1775, and the South Orkneys were discovered by Captain Powell of the British ship "Dove," who landed on Coronation Island on the 7th of December, 1821, and took possession of the group in the name of King George IV. The South Shetlands were discovered by Mr. W. Smith in the brig "Williams" in 1819 and were examined by Captain Bransfield in 1820. Captain Bransfield also discovered the first part of Graham's Land on the Antarctic continent and Mr. John Biscoe discovered the west coast in 1832. Profitable sealing voyages to South Georgia were made prior to 1793 and British whalers were reported there in 1819. The fur-seal industry in the Dependencies achieved such proportions in the early part of the nineteenth century that expeditions were made to them in the two seasons 1820-1821 and 1821-1822 by no fewer than 91 vessels. So recklessly did they slaughter, however, that they are said practically to have exterminated the fur-seal, James Weddell stating that in 1822-1824 these animals were almost extinct.

The area of the Dependencies covers 3,100,000 square miles or $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the entire surface of the globe and one-fifth approximately of the total area of the British Empire. Much of it is ice-bound, but there are more than a million square miles of sea readily accessible for whaling, fishing and sealing.

The island of South Georgia lies about 800 miles to the east of the Falkland Islands in latitude $54\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ South, the South Orkneys and the South Sandwich Islands being 450 miles to the south-west and south-east, respectively, of South Georgia. The northern point of the South Shetlands is about 500 miles to the south of the Falkland Islands. The South Georgia with the South Orkneys and South Sandwich group of dependencies is bounded by the fiftieth parallel of south latitude and by the twentieth and the fiftieth meridians of west longitude, and the South Shetlands and Graham's Land by the parallel of fifty-eight latitude south and by the meridians of longitude fifty and eighty west. Both territories extend to the South Pole. South Georgia is the principal island in the Dependencies and is the only portion of them inhabited throughout the year except for the meteorological station which is maintained by the Argentine Government on Laurie Island in the South Shetlands. It has an area of about 1,000 square miles and is about 100 miles in length with a maximum breadth of 20 miles and consists mainly of steep mountains from which glaciers descend. There is but little flat land and the island is almost entirely barren, the south-west side being permanently frozen. The main vegetation is some coarse grass which grows on the north-east side of the island where the snow melts in the summer. There are no indigenous quadrupeds other than seals, but reindeer

have been introduced and are thriving well. There are many sea-birds, including penguins and albatrosses. The sea-elephant, the sea-leopard, and the Weddell's seal frequent its coasts. The shore has been indifferently charted, but a survey party is at present operating in the Dependency under the direction of the "Discovery" expedition. There are some good harbours which serve as bases for the whaling enterprises.

I.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The Dependencies, in contradistinction to the Colony, are peopled almost exclusively and utilised mainly by foreigners, and are governed from the Falkland Islands with a central administration in common. A resident magistrate and official staff is maintained at South Georgia, and control over whaling operations in the other dependencies is carried out by representatives of the Government who accompany the expeditions.

At South Georgia, which is devoted solely to the whaling industry, five land stations have been established and are occupied throughout the year. A land station has also been erected at Deception Island in the South Shetlands, the personnel of which arrives and returns annually with the whaling fleet. In the Dependencies other than South Georgia, however, the harbours are ice-bound for seven or more months in the year and the work of boiling down is done on board floating factories.

The expedition for research, mainly into whaling, styled "The Discovery Expedition," continued operations in the waters of the Colony and of the Dependencies during the early part of the year with the two ships "Discovery" and "William Scoresby" which left at the beginning of the winter for South Africa and eventually the United Kingdom. The first report on this work was published during the year.

For the first time for some years past the Governor was enabled to visit South Georgia and personally to study conditions on the spot. His stay of a week in mid-winter in the month of August was highly appreciated by the community as a whole.

At Laurie Island in the South Orkneys the Argentine Government continued to maintain the meteorological station established in 1903 by the Scottish Antarctic Expedition under Mr. W. Bruce and transferred by him in 1904. The Argentine Government has subsequently erected a wireless station for use in conjunction with the meteorological station.

II.—FINANCE.

The Dependencies' revenue is derived almost entirely from the whaling industry and amounted in 1927 to £206,059. The local expenditure was £111,306, leaving a surplus of £94,753 which, in accordance with the provisions of Ordinance No. 6 of 1924, was transferred to the Research and Development Fund.

The following table shows the comparative figures of the revenue and of the expenditure during the past five years :—

					<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
					£	£
1923	...	...	...	...	160,221	7,436
1924	...	...	...	...	131,676	27,711
1925	...	...	...	...	180,098	77,928
1926	...	...	...	...	221,595	100,325
1927	...	...	...	...	206,059	111,306

The total amount of the surplus assets standing to the credit of the Research and Development Fund at the 31st of December, 1927, was £421,001. There is no public debt.

The legal tender currency is British sterling and Falkland Islands notes.

No banking facilities exist. The bulk of the payments, including the export duty on whale oil, is made by drafts on which a remittance rate of 1 per cent. is charged.

III.—PRODUCTION.

Apart from sealing on a small scale at South Georgia, whaling is the only industry in the Dependencies, and whale oil and by-products of the whale, such as guano, their sole produce.

The whaling season is restricted to the period from the 16th of September to the 31st of May and the sealing season from the 1st of March to the 31st of October.

During the season 1926-1927 the price of whale oil fell below £30 a ton and, in accordance with the sliding scale in force, the net rate of export duty payable was 2s. 6d. a barrel or 15s. 0d. a ton; the export duty on guano is fixed at the date of 1½d. per 100 lb.

The season 1926-1927 at South Georgia and the South Orkneys showed a record working in regard to the production of oil, principally on account of the high proportion of blue whales in good condition killed to the total catch. The results obtained at the South Shetlands, however, were disappointing in comparison with previous years, the whales caught being both relatively few in number and poor in condition.

The average quantity of oil produced per whale was 68.56 barrels, or an increase of 14.88 barrels as compared with 1925-1926. The

average of 93.17 barrels per whale obtained at South Georgia and the South Orkneys, respectively, is the highest on record and registers a marked advance on that of preceding seasons. The following table, in which the price of whale oil is put at the lowest figure reached in 1926-1927, namely, £26 a ton, gives the size and value of the catch during the past five seasons :—

<i>Season.</i>	<i>Whales killed.</i>	<i>Barrels of oil produced.</i>	<i>Average Number of barrels per whale.</i>	<i>Value. £</i>
1922-23	... 9,915	611,372	61.66	3,056,860
1923-24	... 6,737	427,321	63.43	2,492,700
1924-25	... 10,057	661,998	66.10	3,640,989
1925-26	... 13,188	723,831	54.88	4,101,709
1926-27	... 10,631	729,891	68.56	3,158,431

The production of guano was considerably increased. The number of bags manufactured at South Georgia alone during the 1926-1927 season was 207,992, to an estimated value of £161,280, as against 187,584 bags during the 1925-1926 season.

Sealing operations yielded 10,033 barrels of oil, as compared with 8,094 barrels of oil in 1925-1926 and 6,891 in 1924-1925. The value of seal oil is slightly higher than that of whale oil.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The value of the total trade of the Dependencies in 1927 was £4,414,625, of which £557,060 represented imports and £3,877,565 exports. Of the imports, coal, coke, and oil fuel accounted for £284,501 and provisions £46,018. The exports of whale and seal oil amounted to £3,641,974, of guano to £229,384, and of bone meal to £2,422.

The following table gives the comparative value of the trade of the Dependencies during the past five years :—

	<i>Imports.</i>	<i>Exports.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
	£	£	£
1923	283,632	2,919,379	3,203,001
1924	320,448	2,318,536	2,638,984
1925	372,740	3,585,110	3,957,850
1926	530,017	4,160,743	4,690,760
1927	537,060	3,877,565	4,414,625

Of the imports the bulk of the coal in the usual course is obtained from the United Kingdom and of the provisions from Norway. The exports of whale and seal oil and guano are sold on the European market in large measure to Germany, but the consumption in the United Kingdom is not inconsiderable. The firm of Lever Brothers of Port Sunlight owns the Southern Whaling and Sealing Company, which operates from a land station in South Georgia and with a floating factory expedition at the South Shetlands, and utilizes the produce for the purpose of its manufactures. The South Georgia Company, which operates similarly

from a land station and with a floating factory, is also British, owned by Messrs. Salvesens of Leith; and British capital has acquired recently further large interests in the Anglo-Norse and Hektor Whaling Companies.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

As noticed in a previous chapter of this Report, communication of a regular nature more or less between South Georgia and Stanley and once a year between the South Shetlands and Stanley is maintained by the s.s. "Fleuris," of the Tonsberg Whaling Company, running under contract to the Government.

During the whaling season direct sailings between Europe and South Georgia in either direction are not infrequent, and there is a fairly reliable service between Buenos Aires and Grytviken furnished by the motor auxiliary s.v. "Tijuca" of the Compania Argentina de Pesca. The vessels of the South Shetlands whaling fleet call for the most part at Stanley both on the way down to the fishing grounds in October and on the return voyage in May.

Mails are received and despatched either direct or via Stanley by opportunities as they offer. In summer no long intervals occur, but in winter the delay may on occasion be considerable. Postal rates are the same as from and to the Colony proper.

The Government maintains a wireless station at Grytviken which is in regular communication with Stanley and also on short-wave with Bergen in Norway. The Argentine Government is permitted to maintain a wireless station for use in connection with the meteorological station on Laurie Island in the South Orkneys. There are no railways or roads in the Dependencies. Grytviken and Port Foster at Deception Island in the South Shetlands are the only ports of entry in the Dependencies.

The table below shows the number of vessels which entered at South Georgia during 1927 :—

<i>Nationality.</i>				<i>Steamships.</i>	<i>Sailing-vessels.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>
British	...	...	...	13	—	38,419
Argentine	...	...	...	4	3	9,555
Danish	...	...	...	2	—	3,675
Norwegian	...	...	...	26	—	44,648
Peruvian	...	...	...	1	—	1,633
				46	3	97,930

which total figures compare as follows with those for 1926 :— Steamships 34, sailing vessels 3, and tonnage 77,150. The large increase recorded in the case of steamships is due principally to the fact that ten more such vessels of Norwegian register belonging to the whaling fleet called at South Georgia during the year under review than in the previous year.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

The Magistrate, South Georgia, sits at Grytviken in a court of first instance and the Supreme Court of the Colony at Stanley is common to the Dependencies. During 1927 no serious crime occurred in the Dependencies. Despite the trying conditions the personnel of the whaling industry forms a most peaceful and law-abiding community calling seldom, if ever, for the intervention of the civil authorities, a fact which itself speaks highly of the discipline maintained by the managers of the several stations.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

No public works of any magnitude or importance were carried out during 1927. The *Compania Argentina de Pesca*, however, undertook privately the construction of a floating dock at Grytviken which promises to be of great benefit to the entire whaling industry.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

There is very little sickness in the Dependencies, even colds being of rare occurrence. Some unhealthiness with occasional outbreaks of beri-beri is caused by the lack of fresh foodstuffs, but the climate of South Georgia, although rigorous, is undoubtedly healthy. No medical officer is maintained by the Government in the Dependencies, but the whaling companies have their own doctors and at South Georgia well-equipped hospitals. There is also an efficient hospital at Deception Island, which is kept in commission during the season.

The population of South Georgia fluctuates with the seasons of the whaling industry. During the summer it approximates to 2,000, practically all males, and during the winter to one-quarter of that number. The British inhabitants of South Georgia do not exceed one hundred, and the remainder are almost exclusively Norwegians or of Scandinavian origin.

IX.—EDUCATION.

There are no children in the Dependencies and the problem of education does not therefore arise.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

All land in the Dependencies is owned by the Government. At South Georgia five land stations have been established by whaling companies, sites of 500 acres in extent being taken up for periods of twenty-one years at annual rentals of £250; some of these leases have been temporarily renewed. There are also five unoccupied leaseholds upon which rental is paid. Land stations have been

similarly established at Deception Island in the South Shetlands and on Signy Island in the South Orkneys.

The mineral potentialities of South Georgia have yet to be determined and no attempt has been made hitherto to exploit them. No detailed survey of the lands has been undertaken and the charts of the coasts are of necessity very incomplete. Much information has been obtained, however, by the vessels of the whaling fleet, and the "Discovery" expedition has at the present time a survey party engaged on detailed work in the harbours of South Georgia.

XI.—LABOUR.

Labour in South Georgia and on board the floating factories is specially recruited on contract terms from Norway. The bonus system on production is generally in vogue. The personnel of the several stations and expeditions for the most part arrive and depart with the whaling fleet at the beginning and the end of each whaling season. No labour troubles requiring the intervention of the Government occurred during the year under review.

XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

The 1926-1927 whaling season was remarkable principally for the severe ice conditions and the development of fishing close to or even inside the ice-pack. The ice broke up particularly early and the drift was exceptionally pronounced, large bergs being sighted in considerable numbers as far to the north as Montevideo. In consequence the risks ordinarily attaching to whaling in Antarctic waters were much enhanced. Two floating factories, the s.s. "Southern Queen" and the s.s. "Professor Gruvel," were lost as the result of damage by ice, and several other vessels suffered in a greater or lesser degree.

J. M. ELLIS,
Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
STANLEY, FAULKLAND ISLANDS,
17th December, 1928.

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No. 1424.

Bechuanaland Protectorate

REPORT FOR 1927-28.

*(For Reports for 1925-26 and 1926-27, see Nos. 1317 and 1379,
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BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.

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HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL.

Proclamation of British Protectorate.—During the year 1885 Sir Charles Warren, who was in command of an expedition despatched from England to pacify Southern Bechuanaland, where for some time previously hostilities had been proceeding between the Bechuana and Boers from the South African Republic, visited the principal chiefs in Northern Bechuanaland (known as the Bechuanaland Protectorate), namely, Khama, Gasietsiwe, and Sebele, and as a result a British Protectorate was proclaimed over their territories. No further steps were taken until the year 1891, when, by an Order in Council, dated the 9th May, the limits of the Bechuanaland Protectorate were more clearly defined, and the High Commissioner for South Africa was authorised to appoint such officers as might appear to him to be necessary to provide for the

administration of justice, the raising of revenue, and generally for the peace, order, and good government of all persons within the limits of the Order. Sir Sydney Shippard, the Administrator of Bechuanaland, was appointed Resident Commissioner. An Assistant Commissioner was also appointed for the Southern Protectorate and another for the Northern Protectorate, the laws in force in the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope on the 10th June, 1891, being declared in force in the Territory, *mutatis mutandis*, and so far as not inapplicable. Subsequent legislation has been effected by Proclamation of the High Commissioner.

Relations with the British South Africa Company.—For fiscal and other purposes the Protectorate was treated as a portion of the Crown Colony of British Bechuanaland until the 15th November, 1895, when the latter was annexed to the Cape Colony. In the autumn of that year arrangements were made for the transfer of the administration of the Bechuanaland Protectorate, with the exception of certain reserves for native chiefs, to the British South Africa Company. The country occupied by the Bamalete tribe, and so much of the Bora-Tshidi Barolong country as lies within the limits of the Protectorate, were transferred to the administration of the British South Africa Company, Dr. L. S. Jameson being appointed Resident Commissioner therefor. The Company's police were moved down to a camp in the Protectorate, at Pitsani Potlugo. From that spot, on the 29th December, Dr. Jameson crossed the border of the South African Republic with his police, and marched towards Johannesburg, which was at that time in a state of great unrest. Being defeated by the Boers at Doornkop, he surrendered on the 2nd January, 1896. In consequence of this raid, the administration of the two areas above referred to was transferred to the British Government, by whom the Protectorate, in its entirety, is still governed under the name of the Bechuanaland Protectorate. It includes the Tati District, which is a portion of old Matabeleland conceded in 1887, by Lobengula, to Mr. S. H. Edwards.

Boundaries.—The territory of the Bechuanaland Protectorate is bounded on the south and east by the Union of South Africa, on the north-east by Southern Rhodesia, on the north and on the west by the territory of South West Africa.

It has not been surveyed as a whole, but its area is estimated at 275,000 square miles. Its mean altitude is about 3,300 feet.

In view of the geographical position of that part of the mandated territory of South West Africa east of Longitude 21° E., known as the Caprivi Strip, it was found expedient to provide in 1922 that the latter should be administered as if it were a portion of the Bechuanaland Protectorate.

The Bechuanaland Protectorate is divided for administrative purposes into the following districts, with a Magistrate at the head of each :—

N'gamiland (Headquarters Maun).
Chobe (Headquarters Kasane).
Ngwato (Headquarters Serowe).
Gaberones (Headquarters Gaberones).
Lobatsi (Headquarters Lobatsi).
Ghanzi (Headquarters Gemsbok Pan).
Francistown (Headquarters Francistown).
Tuli Block (Headquarters Selika).
Kweneng (Headquarters Molepolole).
Ngwaketsi (Headquarters Kanye).
Kgalagadi (Headquarters Lehututu).

In addition the Assistant Resident Commissioner is Chief Magistrate for the Protectorate, and, as such, has all the powers of an Assistant Commissioner or Resident Magistrate throughout the Territory.

CURRENCY.

The coinage legally current in the Bechuanaland Protectorate is declared by Order in Council dated the 23rd January, 1911, to be all British coins and all Transvaal coins, British coins being defined as any coins which under the Coinage Acts, 1870 and 1891 are legal tender in the United Kingdom, and Transvaal coins as any coins which were coined in the Mint established at Pretoria by the Government of the late South African Republic in accordance with the provisions of Law No. 14 of 1891 of that Republic.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The weights and measures in use in the Territory are Imperial.

LANGUAGES.

The principal languages spoken are English and Sechuana.

I.—GENERAL.

The outstanding event of the year 1927 was the visit of the Right Hon. L. C. M. S. Amery, M.P. (Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs) and Mrs. Amery to the Territory. The Secretary of State's staff included Mr. G. G. Whiskard, C.B., Assistant Secretary to the Dominions Office, Mr. G. Huxley, Secretary to the Publicity Committee, Empire Marketing Board, and Captain W. Brass, M.P., and he was also accompanied by Captain the Hon. B. E. H. Clifford, C.M.G., M.V.O., the Imperial Secretary, representing His Excellency the High Commissioner. The distinguished visitors arrived at Palapye Road from Rhodesia early on the morning of 22nd August where they were met by the Resident Commissioner, the Assistant Resident Commissioner, and the Resident Magistrate of the District. Before leaving Palapye Road for Serowe the Acting Chief and Regent, Tshekedi Khama, was introduced to Mr. Amery in his private coach, after which the Chief left to arrange for the meeting in his Kgotla with the Bamangwato Tribe. The local European residents, headed by Mr. H. C. Weatherilt, O.B.E., and Mr. R. McFarlane, members of the European Advisory Council, were here presented to Mr. and Mrs. Amery.

The party arrived at Serowe at noon, being given an enthusiastic welcome by the Bamangwato Regiments lining the route to the Kgotla.

A luncheon was given in honour of the Secretary of State and his party by the European inhabitants of Serowe.

Following luncheon a visit was paid to the Serowe London Missionary Society Church, built by the Bamangwato under the late Chief Khama, and to Khama's Memorial near the Kgotla.

This concluded the visit and the party returned to Palapye Road, arriving there at sunset.

The visit afforded both Europeans and natives much pleasure apart from the fact that Mr. Amery was the first Colonial Secretary to visit the Bamangwato Reserve.

On the 23rd August, Mr. and Mrs. Amery received at Gaberones Station the local European residents and the Indians trading in the Territory, and then proceeded to the Crown Reserve, three miles distant, where the native chiefs of the Southern Protectorate had assembled to greet the Secretary of State.

The same afternoon at Lobatsi, after Mr. Transfeldt, member of the European Advisory Council, had presented an address to the Secretary of State on behalf of the local residents, to which he briefly replied, Mr. Amery presided at a luncheon, at which 200 guests sat down, given by the Administration of the Territory to inaugurate the new factory of the Bechuanaland Cold Storage Company, Limited, the machinery of which was started by

Mrs. Amery. On this occasion Mr. Amery dealt with the immediate prospects of the Territory with special reference to the contemplated operations of the Cold Storage Company. He emphasised the importance of raising the water that existed almost everywhere below the surface, which, he said, was only needed to make the Bechuanaland Protectorate one of the finest dairying countries in the world; also the importance of promoting speedier transport, in regard to which the Administration was making experiments. He announced that the Administration were about to undertake a policy of more effective development of the whole territory and indicated some of the respects in which the Mother Country would be prepared to co-operate, but he appealed for a continuance of the whole-hearted support of the European settlers, of which he had already seen much evidence, particularly the good work done by the European Advisory Council. Sir Drummond Chaplin, G.B.E., K.C.M.G., Chairman of the Cold Storage Company, in his reply, touched upon the prospects of an early settlement of the important questions affecting mineral rights in the Territory, which would contribute greatly to the development of the Territory.

At Mafeking the same afternoon, the Secretary of State and Mrs. Amery paid a short visit to the Imperial Reserve, where they met all the Headquarters staff and their wives. It is not too much to say that the distinguished couple have left everywhere a vivid impression of real friendliness and interest.

The European Advisory Council held its Eighth Annual Meeting at Mafeking in March. The Council is representative of seven electoral areas, covering the whole Territory, as follows:—

1. Ghanzi District;
2. Francistown District;
3. Tuli Block District;
4. Ngwato (Bamangwato Reserve), Ngamiland (Batawana Reserve), and Chobe Districts;
5. Gaborones Block together with all the land lying between the Bamalete Reserve and Gaborones Block bounded on the north-west by the Bakwena Reserve and on the east by the eastern boundary of the farm "Crocodile Pools";
6. Lobatsi District (excluding Barolong Farms but including the farm "Panyani") and Kgalagadi District;
7. Bamalete, Bakgatla, Bakwena, and Bangwaketsi Reserves and Barolong Farms;

each of which returns one member who must be a qualified voter and have been nominated by not less than five qualified voters, and who holds his seat on the Council for a period of three years. Immediately prior to a new election, a register of qualified voters

in each area is compiled. Every landowner, leaseholder, fixed property holder, or licensed trader, of a value of not less than £300 (or his duly appointed representative), being a British subject of European descent residing within the Territory, has one vote. Each candidate for election must deposit the sum of £25, which is forfeited should he fail to poll one-fifth of the total number of votes polled by the successful candidate. The Council sits at least once in each year and at any other time at the request of the Resident Commissioner, but three members may suggest to the Resident Commissioner the advisability of calling a meeting at any time, stating their reasons. The Resident Commissioner presides over the sittings of the Council.

The present Members of the Council are :—

H. C. Weatherilt, Esquire, O.B.E., J.P. (Electoral areas Nos. 1 and 3).

R. McFarlane, Esquire, J.P. (Electoral area No. 2).

R. A. Bailey, Esquire, J.P. (Electoral area No. 4).

L. S. Glover, Esquire (Electoral area No. 5).

G. J. F. van Rensburg, Esquire (Electoral area No. 6).

B. I. Vickerman, Esquire (Electoral area No. 7).

A special Meeting of the Council was called by the Resident Commissioner last September.

The Eighth Annual Meeting of the Native Advisory Council was held at Gaberones in April, 1928.

The Council is normally representative of the tribes of the Southern Protectorate only, namely, the Barolong, the Bakwena, the Bangwaketsi, the Bakgatla, the Bamalete, and the Batlokwa. The Chief of the Bamangwato is, however, always invited to attend, and has occasionally attended the sittings of the Council, but the Batawana tribe in Ngamiland is too far distant for their representation to be practicable. The Council consists of five members (one of whom must be the ruling Chief) elected by each of the six tribes according to their custom, and discusses with the Resident Commissioner all matters affecting native interests which any of its members desires to bring forward, and especially the administration of the Native Fund.

The Native Fund is devoted to purely native purposes, e.g., native education, improvement of native stock, water supply in native reserves, and an annual contribution to the cost of eradication of lung-sickness in cattle. The revenue of the fund is obtained by an annual tax of 5s. on every native liable for hut-tax, except in the case of the Bamangwato and Batawana in Ngamiland, who pay 3s.

Kalahari Expedition.

At their 1927 Meeting, the European Advisory Council passed the following resolution :—

“ We suggest that a sum of £500 be placed on the Estimates for the purpose of exploring a cattle route to the western border, starting in the neighbourhood of Lephephe and travelling north-west or nearly so and again starting, say, from Ghanzi and travelling south-east with a view to ascertaining the possibilities of a sufficient water supply. As this proposed route would be in Crown Lands practically the whole distance of, say, 200 to 250 miles, it should present the minimum of difficulty.”

The country proposed to be explored forms an equilateral triangle, with sides about 200 miles long, entirely devoid of markings, almost in the centre of the map of the Territory; the proposed route almost bisects this triangle. It is indeed unexplored in the sense that no European had travelled through it with the result of a route being established for general use or which might be regarded as safe for man or beast. Many native rumours told of people living around permanent water there. Anderson had crossed its western edge from Ngamiland south-eastwards in the middle of last century, bequeathing to an inquisitive posterity a supposed permanent water marked on some maps as Anderson's Vlei. Others claim to have ventured across it towards the Bakwena Reserve, notably S. McTavish, who in 1911 entered into an agreement with the Administration to perform the journey for a sum of £50 and if successful he was to be given the contract to sink three wells along the route. He is known to have started this hazardous journey in a scotchcart drawn by oxen from Seebigo Pan, 40 miles north-east of Ghanzi, and to have reached the Molepolole-Lehututu road 40 miles from the former place. He reported that he saw no signs of permanent water along the 250 miles travelled, and melon (tsama), and once an opportune thunderstorm, alone kept his oxen alive. He had only a pocket-compass to guide him. He was given the contract to sink the wells, but illness supervened and he cancelled the contract. Although unproductive of substantial results, McTavish's was a notable and a daring performance, and until this year the Administration has been unable to find anyone who would follow his tracks.

Towards the end of 1927, however, Lieutenant Beeching, Sub-Inspector in the Bechuanaland Protectorate Police and Acting Resident Magistrate of the Kgalagadi District, was ordered, as soon as he had collected the bulk of his hut-tax for the year, to make the route desired by the Advisory Council, or, in other words, to go from Lehututu to Ghanzi and from thence to the nearest point on the Rhodesia Railways, looking out for permanent water

on the way. He arrived at Ghanzi during February, and after some days spent in necessary preparations left that station for Deka or Daka, about 30 miles east-north-east of Ghanzi. With a scotchcart and oxen, five camels, six native policemen, and two Bushman guides, he made his real start into the unknown from Daka in the early morning of the 9th March, travelling south-east. His rate of progress was necessarily slow with oxen, two treks a day averaging together seven hours at two miles an hour, and in thick bush $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles an hour. Rain sometimes held him up, and the dense bush on either bank of the great Okwa river was very troublesome, every foot of the way having to be cut. The Bushman guides were always an anxiety, as each guide will only go to the limit of his hunting grounds, where another guide must be found. This results in a somewhat zigzag course, and Lieutenant Beeching estimates that the route he made is thus capable of being shortened some 20 miles. At one point a fresh guide was not forthcoming until he had waited four days. He eventually reached Kika, or Kikau, 100 miles north-north-west of Molepolole, on the 28th March, and from there sent in his first report and his camels to the wells at Metsematluku, 60 miles west of Molepolole. He had found plenty of water in limestone pans fairly evenly scattered along the route, evidence of abundant large game, many Bushmen armed with bows and arrows, who were placated with tobacco, and a few meagre Bakgalagadi villages. Neither Bakgalagadi nor Bushmen were too friendly, and most of them uncommunicative, particularly as regards the next water, whilst the party got little sleep on the journey, having to trek during the day and guard their animals against lions at night. Two-thirds of the way one ox went sick, and was left with a native. Lieutenant Beeching arrived at Metsematluku on the 4th April, having travelled between 280 and 300 miles from Daka in 23 trekking days.

Thus was established, during the rains at any rate, a practicable cattle route from the valuable Ghanzi grazing lands almost half the distance of the existing route via Lehututu, and cattle have since come safely through. Also the possibility of making it an all-weather and a motor transport route was strongly indicated by the almost continuous limestone formation. But the desideratum of the Advisory Council was not yet attained. It was considered that Mahalapye should be linked up with the new route, so as to provide the shortest possible route to the railway line.

Early in the year the Administration had acquired a Morris six-wheeled lorry, and, after some months' testing in and around Serowe, had decided to send it on an experimental trip across the desert.

The objects of the expedition were chiefly to locate suitable places for sinking wells along the new route, to ascertain whether it was possible to utilize motor transport for traversing the desert, to report upon the country traversed and the uses to which it might be put, and to test British cars under the worst African conditions.

For the purpose of the expedition a second lorry was lent by the Morris Company and eventually the expedition started from Mahalapye at 2 p.m. on the 20th June.

The party consisted of :

The Imperial Secretary.

Lieutenant Beeching.

Mr. W. Grantham (Morris lorry expert).

Mr. Makin (S.A. Press).

Two chauffeurs.

Native Corporal Hendrik (Interpreter for all desert languages).

Native cook.

Three native constables.

The same day the party reached Shoshong, and there may be said to have taken its leave of civilization. Shoshong, a former capital of the Bamangwato, has interesting associations. Here reigned Khama's heathen father Sekgome, and from here originated, after the latter's deposition, many intrigues against the great Christian Chief. Early next morning the expedition moved on to Lephephe, and at once the limestone formation was everywhere in view. Lephephe was found to be 79 miles from Mahalapye, over a fairly straight track and good hard ground; thence to Sunnyside farm in Ghanzi the distance, allowing for sinuosities in travelling, may be taken as 310 miles. Water was replenished at Lephephe, this being the last known supply. Tsitle was reached after sunset, 21st June, and was left at 7.30 p.m. To economise the water it was decided to travel at night. Captain Clifford discovered that a further advantage lay in the diminution of dust trouble by night, the impalpable desert sand being expanded or diffused in the heat of the day. The lorries rarely boiled at night, so travelling then proved easiest, though it was cold enough to freeze the water from otherwise imperceptible leakages from the water tanks which were revealed by the ice. At 8 a.m. on 22nd June, in 10 hours' travelling from Tsitle they had only covered $23\frac{1}{2}$ miles, in the course of which the lorries averaged 3 miles to the gallon and used 25 gallons of water. Zuwe was reached on 24th June, and at 3.30 a.m. on the 25th Kuke was located in the darkness, after some of the worst going of the trip. A serious mishap to the water supply also occurred. The caterpillar track flapped so much that it knocked off the tap of one of the water tanks, about 15 gallons of water being lost before it was noticed. At Kuke water had been confidently expected, but the last drops in the pan had evaporated and the prospect

was dismal indeed, the expedition finding itself on a small hill composed of cattle dung and bleached bones, with a background of dirty sand. Press despatches, sent in to Molepolole, spoke of desperate anxiety as to petrol and water lasting until Ghanzi. Moreover, punctures were by this time recognised to be a very serious matter, if only in the way of time lost. They averaged 20 a day—the stumps of dead trees often lie just beneath the sand with points like sharpened pencils. From Kuke, where Beeching's route was picked up, the course was altered to N.W. and the going was good. Kika Pan was soon passed, also dried up, and the natives explained that they slaked their thirst with bulbs (they also pound up the leaves of a certain shrub). Hereabouts the first big game were sighted in the distance, three enormous giraffe. The expedition being short of food, Captain Clifford went ahead to shoot, but instead of game encountered a Bushman carrying an armful of melons (tsama). This man, and his family who soon surrounded him, he interviewed by signs, and learned that he had brought the melons from a place two suns march away, also that, though there was no water, game would be found further on. Gomodimo Pan was reached shortly after midday on 26th June and a very little muddy water found, and this some women were putting into large numbers of ostrich eggs carried in skins on their backs. When they had filled the eggs they buried them in the ground.

These pans are situated in crater-like depressions and, when dry, reveal a limestone bed. Farmers at Ghanzi subsequently explained that, when sinking their wells, they have to dig through this solid limestone for 40 to 60 feet, when a bluish white shale, apparently composed of a mixture of clay and limestone pebbles, is encountered. Through this the water does not penetrate, and after digging into it for 10 to 15 feet a perennial supply of water is obtained. Captain Clifford could hear of no failures.

Chukudu (Tsuguru) Pan was next passed and, shortly afterwards, a shallow valley, which looked as if it marked the former course of a river, having a marked bank on its western side. Then followed an open plain, with sparse stunted scrub, until a very marked rise brought the party to the saucer-like rim of the extensive Kaotwe Pan. Turning north for 5 or 6 miles, a flat treeless plain was crossed and there numbers of hartebeeste, gemsbok, and wildebeeste were seen grazing in the distance. Then dense bush and very heavy sand, through which the lorries pushed slowly for 6 miles before entering the hard limestone bed of the Quale River, along which they ran north-east for about 2 miles, when it curved west and appeared to join the bed of the Okwa River. Two miles farther on, they left the river bed and encountered more thick bush and heavy sand. All through the night they struggled on and at 8 a.m. found themselves once more in the bed of the river, which is serpentine in its course. The natives

believe that this huge river had its source in the heart of the Kalahari, which recalls "Anderson's Vlei," but the expedition could not stay to explore. Old maps take the source into South-West Africa. This theory is favoured by Captain Clifford and, as the river bed also appears south of Ghanzi, it may be more nearly correct.

It was now the 29th June, and for nearly three days the course took the expedition through open grassy plains, millions of acres of good grazing, which Captain Clifford has described as equal to the best grazing land in South Africa. These are Crown lands.

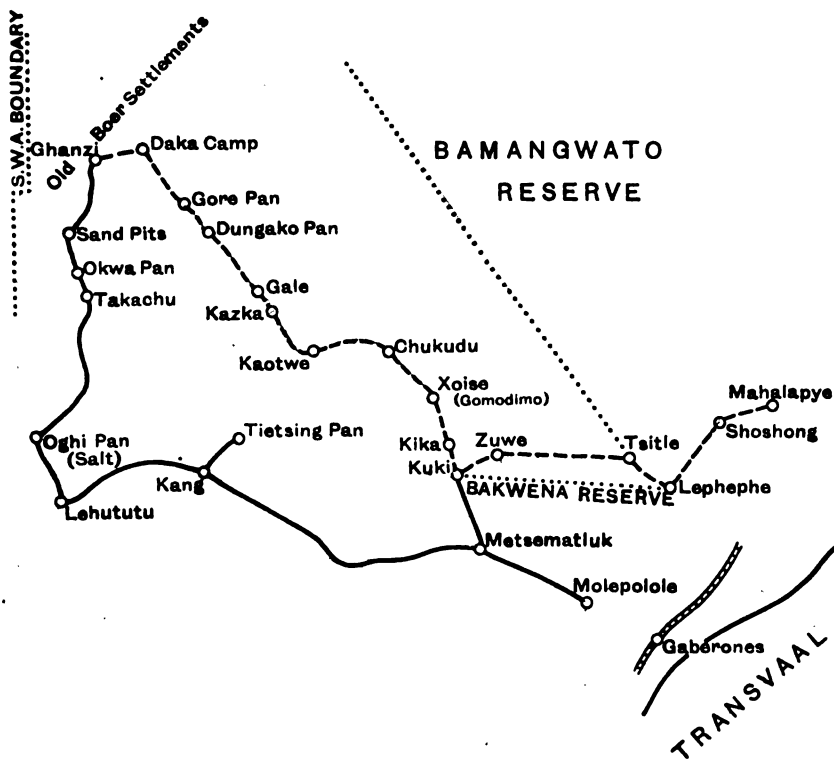
Dungako Pan was passed at 12.40 a.m. next day, and here it was calculated that the dwindling supply of petrol would probably see them through. None the less, on reaching Van Zyl's cutting, some 26 miles beyond Gore Pan, it was a welcome sight to see duck disporting themselves in the cutting still about three parts full of water, and also, at hand, five drums of petrol sent out from Ghanzi by camel. According to old Corporal Hendrik (who has since passed to happier hunting grounds), Van Zyl hunted elephants hereabouts some 30 or 40 years ago, but he and his son were killed by Bushmen, who pursued a vendetta against the father for having thrashed one of their number. About two-thirds of the way between Gore and Van Zyl's cutting there was found to be a shallow depression, apparently another dry river bed. Sunnyside farm was found to be closed, but after one more night's camping out, Ghanzi Magistracy was reached on 2nd July.

It is worth recording that, neither on Lieutenant Beeching's pioneer trek nor on this journey of the lorries, through the alleged "Kalahari breeding ground" was a single locust seen, nor yet the signs of any.

No large communities of natives were found to exist, or were heard of as existing, in this huge unknown country; permanent water would, of course, render such communities possible. It is more probable that the primitive family group system prevails, as found by Miss D. F. Bleek among the Bushmen of Angola in 1925. Nomad Bushmen hunting with the lion and driving him from his kill, feed on the meat to utter repletion and live on that one feed through days and perhaps weeks of famine, working when required for the Bakgalagadi (probably no longer a pure race but intermarried with the Bushmen). The Bakgalagadi themselves live together in small villages, at intervals going away to serve for a time members of the neighbouring Bechuana tribes, who treat them well and allow them to return to their families at will, taking with them hides and skins to sell and one fine skin as a present to their master. Such might have been the actual relations subsisting between the ancient Israelites and the neighbouring desert tribes of that day, and they seem natural

enough when one comes to think of the economic limitations of desert life and the consequent struggle of the desert people for existence. Religious beliefs among the desert tribes would seem to be coloured by what is picked up from the Bechuana in the course of periods of service, but much might yet with advantage be ascertained as to the customs and beliefs that are thus being displaced, especially from the Bushmen, for in no part of the Protectorate can one hope to find the Bushman more closely adhering to his ancient habits of thought and action, and there are few indeed left who can speak his language and gain his confidence.

A rough sketch map of the route from Mahalapye to Ghanzi is here reproduced.



The Kalahari has always been more or less an unknown land to Europeans. Not many years ago the popular belief was that it consisted of a dry desert waste with nothing but sand as far as the eye could reach. That theory, however, has long since been exploded.

Latest information shows that water pans exist in this unexplored country, and that their whereabouts are well known to

the Bushmen. Moreover, there is reason to believe that somewhere beneath the surface of this desert there is everlasting water to be found.

Among the remaining objects which the expedition was intended to achieve, the most important was to discover a route from Ngamiland to the Zambesi along which cattle might travel without encountering the tse-tse fly, whose bite has no discernible immediate effect but after rain produces the disease of trypanosomiasis in animals. The great cattle trade of Ngamiland and Ghanzi with the Belgian Congo is constantly menaced by the fact that cattle apparently healthy when they leave the Territory reach their destination with the disease upon them. The problem of the tse-tse fly, which in other regions has produced the dreaded sleeping sickness but so far not in the Bechuanaland Protectorate, has perplexed many African Governments, who have adopted various means of fighting it, but none of these methods has been effectively employed in this Territory. So far, the Administration has been unable to do more than seek new routes as the fly advances further east. Obviously this is only a temporary makeshift, but it might tide the trade over until some combative plan which ensures success can be discovered. The wild game, particularly elephants, are believed to carry the fly, but in the Ngamiland and Chobe Districts, where the rarer large game still thrives, preservation and not destruction is the order of the day. The ravages of the fly, however, must be very largely minimised if the small scrub and forest undergrowth, that provide the shade in which these pests lurk and breed, is entirely removed from the margins of the cattle route. Before such a work is undertaken, a route must be selected that is sufficiently provided with grazing and water, and, if necessary, wells will have to be sunk.

Accordingly the expedition, having filled up at Ghanzi with petrol and water, set out on the evening of the 2nd July, on a 500-mile trip northwards. They called on one Dutchman farmer *en route* and Captain Clifford has recorded his unstinted admiration for the cleanliness of the place and the manner in which these people had maintained European standards in so lonely an outpost of civilization. For the most part they passed through open country, with patches of heavy sand, frequent limestone outcrops, and occasional pans. After the spot marked on the map The Kopjes, there was a welcome stretch of flat loamy country through thick bush, and generally the road was good all along the shores of Lake Ngami as far as Totin. Lake Ngami, as they saw it, was a vast expanse of rich, black, alluvial soil, but in recent years the July floods have reached it, and one-third to one-half of its surface has been under water. This part of the Territory is well within native reserve, but here, and in the beds of the feeding rivers or other spillways from the Okovango when they are dry,

there may be future possibilities of cultivation for export, if only the transport problem can be solved. Cotton and rice leap to the eye as possible crops for which there is abundant demand. There is also the Mokyoitse aloe, the fibre of which resembles hemp or jute, and the papyrus plant; both of these flourish locally. At present the transport (ox-wagon) rates are 25s. a 100 pounds to Livingstone and 15s. a 100 pounds to Serowe (the latter route only being practicable during the rains). Reaching Maun, the capital of Ngamiland, on the afternoon of the 6th July, the Imperial Secretary had important interviews with the Resident Magistrate and Mathiba, the Chief of the Batawana, which should be productive of good results, in respect of suppression of the tse-tse, sinking of wells, and means of crossing the flooded rivers and of navigating them.

The expedition left Maun the same evening. The rivers were rising rapidly and the lorries crossed on a raft made of six mekoro (native canoes) lashed together.

Before reaching Kasane, the headquarters of the Chobe District, Captain Clifford investigated the Basubia tribe and found them physically and ethnically diverse from Bushmen. Though small and graceful in appearance, they are dolichocephalic in type like the Bantu. These natives repudiated the suggestion that they were servants to the Batawana.

The expedition arrived at Kasane at 4 p.m. on 10th July and Victoria Falls at 10 a.m. next day. Four miles from the Falls the big end bearings of the Government lorry gave out and it had to be towed in. The going from Ngamiland had been good except for the troublesome Magwikwe sand ridge and the numerous punctures received in the almost ubiquitous Mopane scrub, and the 300 miles from Maun were accomplished in three and three-quarter days. It is all good grazing country, and is also Crown Lands. This route is often taken nowadays by motor-cars, usually without mishap. The new route through the forest from Kasane to the Falls, constructed last April by Lieutenant Ellam in less than six weeks for about £40, is generally considered excellent.

Captain Clifford found Captain Stigand's map, where he had to use it, most accurate.

As to the new cattle route from Ghanzi, the Administration is sending a boring machine to sink wells every 50 miles from Metsematluku to Daka for a start, after which the shorter route from Lephephe to Kika will be prospected with a similar object.

In conclusion, it should be mentioned that, when on 9th July no news whatever of the expedition had been received since they left Kuke on the Bakwena border, the Union Government came to the rescue with an aeroplane as the only practicable means of reaching the party in case they had got stranded. This aeroplane

was about to leave, fitted with an apparatus for dropping supplies of food and water and for dropping and picking up messages, when news of the expedition's arrival at Victoria Falls came through. There is little doubt that, the spoor of the lorries being very distinct, if necessary this expedient would have been entirely successful, and the Union Defence authorities are heartily congratulated and thanked for their ready enterprise.

Note.—The Imperial Secretary's report, which describes the expedition under his leadership in greater detail, has been published and a limited number of copies may be obtained on application to the Government Secretary's Office, Mafeking. It is also to be published in an abridged form in the Journal of the Royal Geographical Society.

Cameron-Cadle Expedition.—Early in August an expedition of scientists from the United States of America consisting of Dr. W. J. Cameron (leader), Dr. C. Ernest Cadle, Professor R. L. Mannen (Geologist), Messrs. F. L. Parrish and Henry Hoder (photographers), with Mr. W. H. Rhodes of Johannesburg (wireless operator) entered the Territory for the purpose of studying Bushman life and other matters of general scientific interest. Dr. Cadle had in 1925 and 1926 spent much time amongst the Bushmen in the mandated territory of South-West Africa. The expedition travelled by road from Mafeking to Serowe in two heavy "Diamond T" motor-trucks, leaving behind their superfluous stores and impedimenta. Although they left another ton and a-half of luggage at Serowe, their lorries were unable to traverse the heavy sand about fifteen miles out and returned after four days. They then travelled to Bulawayo by road, and proceeded to Matetsi about forty miles south of the Victoria Falls. According to Dr. Cameron, the party travelled as far as the Protectorate border from Matetsi, but no farther, contenting themselves with sending for types of Bushmen from within the Territory.

The death, on the 16th June, 1927, at Johannesburg Hospital, of Mr. Myles Williams, Financial Secretary, after 25 years' service, is recorded with deep regret. Mr. Williams was a capable and valued officer whose loss will be much felt. He had a thorough command of Sechuana, and was much respected by the natives. The local Chief wrote, in expressing sorrow at his death, that "We have sustained the loss of a friend we loved so much from his boyhood, and to all he was a just and fair officer."

During the past year the death has also taken place of Sir Ralph Williams, K.C.M.G., a former Resident Commissioner of the Bechuanaland Protectorate, who subsequently held office as Governor of the Windward Islands and Newfoundland.

As one to whom the recent successful crossing of the Kalahari Desert was very largely due and a notable man in his humble way, it also seems fitting to record here the death from illness while on duty of the aged Corporal Hendrik Boys, on the 11th September, 1928. Hendrik entered the service in February, 1910, and may be described as the doyen of the native Desert Police. Knowing the Bushman and other Desert languages, sagacious, reliable and well liked, he more than once saved the lives of his officer and comrades, and his loss is well-nigh irreparable. The following message sent by him as he was dying is noteworthy: "I am very ill—should I go beyond before I again see one of my officers, you as the Government, my Lords, try and think well of my past work."

II.—FINANCE.

The total revenue for the year ended 31st March, 1928, amounted to £147,911. As compared with the previous year, increases aggregating £20,778 were shown under the heads Customs (£1,513), Licences (£40), Judicial Fines (£286), Income Tax (£17,989), and Miscellaneous (£950), whilst decreases amounting to £4,435 were reflected under the heads Hut Tax (£559), Posts (£1,150), Revenue Stamps (£370), European Poll Tax (£33), Rentals and Transfer Duty (£2,003), and Native Fund Contribution (£320).

The total expenditure amounted to £119,984, which was £11,761 in excess of the amount for the preceding year. The increases were incurred mainly on Police, Administration of Justice, Public Works, Veterinary, and Pensions, while smaller increases were shown under most other Services.

The appended figures furnish the totals of the revenue and expenditure and the accumulated surplus balances for the past five years:

<i>Financial Year.</i>	<i>Total Revenue.</i>	<i>Total Expenditure.</i>	<i>Surplus Balance.</i>
	£	£	£
1923-1924 	100,234	81,808	26,817
1924-1925 	99,576	87,372	39,021
1925-1926 	107,345	104,122	42,244
1926-1927 	131,568	108,223	65,589
1927-1928 	147,911	119,984	93,516

During 1927-1928 a sum of £1,191 was lent to settlers at five per cent. interest, repayment of the capital being spread over a period of five years. Eleven loans were granted for building dipping tanks, two for water-boring, and one was paid to afford relief from a bond at a high rate of interest.

III.—PRODUCTION.

The natives of the Bechuanaland Protectorate are mainly engaged in cattle-rearing. The distribution, among the various tribes, of pure-bred bulls and cows purchased out of a fund maintained by the natives themselves, and the restriction of cattle exportations to the Union of South Africa to a certain weight of animal, have contributed in different ways to the improvement of native stock. For veterinary reasons, the export of cattle to the Union is further restricted to consignments intended for approved abattoirs and (without restriction as to weight) for export overseas, while to South-West Africa and Southern Rhodesia it is absolutely prohibited. Subject to authorisation from the Inspeção dos Serviços Veterinários in Loanda being previously obtained, there is unrestricted export of cattle to Angola.

Cattle may be exported through Northern Rhodesia to the Belgian Congo provided that they are certified by a qualified Veterinary Surgeon as being themselves clean and as coming from an area which has been free from transmittable disease for a period of six months. In the case of Ngamiland or Ghanzi cattle, they must also have travelled to the border of the Territory along a road free from the tsetse-fly and undergo a microscopic test at the border. A quarantine is imposed on the entrance of such cattle into Northern Rhodesia, and, in order to conserve the grazing there, only a limited number is allowed to cross annually. In the case of cattle from the Tati (Francistown) District, export is only allowed of purely Tati cattle, and no cattle may leave the train in Northern Rhodesia. At Sakania, Belgian Congo, a further quarantine is imposed on all cattle entering the Colony.

As a result of all these restrictions, some of which are of recent imposition, the cattle trade is not yet as flourishing as it might be.

An inspection fee of 1s. a beast is levied on all cattle exported from Ngamiland and the Caprivi Strip as a contribution towards the cost of the services rendered in order to satisfy the above-mentioned veterinary restrictions.

The embargo on exportation of cattle from the Caprivi Strip continues.

Prices realised for Protectorate cattle were generally higher than in the previous year, excellent prices being obtained for the better bred Tuli Block cattle.

The feature of the hides and skins export during the year ended March last was a phenomenal rise in price of both, in the case of hides to double what it was in the previous year. Local merchants are unable to account for this. The weight of hides exported decreased from 2,283,506 lb. to 1,506,635 lb., but the value increased from £41,660 to £66,870. The export of sheep and goat skins decreased in weight from 91,875 lb. to 69,374 lb., but the value only from £3,599 to £3,556.

The export of skins of wild animals and karosses continues to show an upward tendency. The increase now to be recorded is from £12,840 in 1926-27 to £16,814. Molepolole is the chief centre of this trade, the great bulk of the skins being exported to Great Britain and America, chiefly to America. About one-tenth of the skins are sewn into karosses locally by skilled natives.

There is a considerable export of firewood, i.e., dead trees, which brought into the Territory last year £3,970. The wood goes mostly to Kimberley, Mafeking, and the Lichtenburg diamond diggings. The native chiefs are disposed, however, to restrict this traffic, lest too great a demand should have the result of suddenly depriving their people of a continuous source of income.

The only minerals at present produced are gold and silver in the Tati (Francistown) District: 2,063 oz. of gold and 157 oz. of silver, valued at £8,671, as against 3,807 oz. of gold and 418 oz. of silver, valued at £16,020, in the previous year. The Monarch Mine, which was the principal mine in the District, closed down on 31st May, 1927, but development operations are expected to be resumed in the near future.

What is reported upon by experts in Great Britain as a superior class of asbestos has been discovered in the Bangwaketsi Reserve, and the concessionnaire is assured that if bulk is equal to sample its worth to an asbestos manufacturer may be estimated at from £60 to £80 per ton. This opinion is confirmed by a Johannesburg mining engineer who has viewed the property, and an agreement has been entered into with a Johannesburg syndicate giving them an option to purchase if, after the area has been worked for a certain period, the find should prove to be of sufficient value. The concessionnaire has decided to spend a considerable sum of money on this trial working. Production in any quantity would seem to depend upon whether zones of true serpentine will be found underlying the serpentized dolomite from which these specimens were gathered. At present indications are favourable over a very large area.

According to the same concessionnaire, galena has been found in the same Reserve at twenty different points in Buckreefs, scattered over the large felsite area extending from near Moshanen to the Bangwaketse-Bamelete border, but at no point does the deposit appear to extend to any depth. The test of the specimen sent to the Imperial Institute is still awaited.

Iron ore, entirely haematite in its several forms, is also said to be found over a very large area from a few miles west of Kanye to a point 30 miles distant, and within that area may be found very large and rich deposits of this ore.

Ivory to the value of £639 was exported.

Except in the extreme south and north, where there was a good harvest, and in the Kweneng District (Molepolole), where about

two-thirds of the plantings were successful, the staple crops of maize and Kaffir corn were a complete failure, owing to scanty or unseasonable rains. The natives only grow for their own needs, and even the European settlers consider it hardly worth while to raise these particular crops for export.

The farmer in the Tati District, who had previously been so successful with his experimental crops of cotton, made a further venture, but, owing to 10 weeks' drought after the January rains, his crop was a complete failure. No one else planted cotton during the year under review.

Tobacco.

Experimental crops of the Turkish and heavy Virginian pipe varieties were sown in the Francistown District, and appear to have established the fact that this crop can stand up to drought conditions. Rainfall in the southern portion of the Francistown District, from the 18th January to the 18th March, amounted to no more than .77 inch, and, while other crops perished, these varieties of tobacco yielded such encouraging results that the Tati Company intend to put it down over a big acreage in the coming season. The soil chosen was sandy with underlying granite. Samples of the tobacco grown have obtained satisfactory reports in South Africa and overseas. Unfortunately there is much over-production of tobacco in the world to-day, notably in the adjoining Colony of Southern Rhodesia, but if co-operation could be brought about with a view to controlling prices, the Bechuanaland Protectorate could evidently take its share of the returns. Otherwise the Territory can only hope to succeed in this line of production by growing only the best classes of tobacco, as indeed seems practicable, and finding a market for it, which may not be an easy matter. Satisfactory experimental crops were also grown in the Tuli Block.

No locusts were reported in the Bechuanaland Protectorate during the year.

The manufacture of what are known as "native curios" is an industry that in South Africa might be said to be peculiar to the Bechuanaland Protectorate. Animals, birds, &c., of the country are carved by the natives in a soft wood (the monyelemyele tree) and decorated by burning with a hot iron. These are much sought after by travellers passing through the Territory, the natives swarming around the trains at any stopping place for the purpose of selling them. Recently this industry, and those of kaross and pottery manufacture by the natives, were saved from practical extinction, caused partly by apprehensions rightly entertained by the railway authorities from the standpoint of public safety, and partly by the threatened absorption of the trade by storekeepers holding licences from the railways. Timely intervention by the Administration resulted in certain reasonable conditions being

accepted by the railways on the one hand, and by the natives on the other; and this native trade, so attractive to railway passengers and lucrative to the natives, is to be allowed to continue subject, however, to the good behaviour of the sellers on the railway line.

Dairy Produce.

The dairy industry has made great progress in the year under review.

On the 31st March, 1928, there were 465 creameries and cheese factories registered, being 120 more than at the end of the previous year. Of these, native creameries increased from 54 to 119.

The type of building has improved, and in most cases far exceeds minimum requirements. The native is showing a praiseworthy spirit of emulation, each trying to go one better than his predecessor in registration.

Native milk-sellers, i.e., those who milk under European supervision and sell their milk for separation, have increased from 135 to 186.

The Dairy Expert has devoted much time to instruction of natives.

Generally, he has also found time to give instruction in cheese-making with demonstrations.

He has also advocated the production of ensilage, the growth of spineless cactus and the gathering of hay, etc., with some success, and he will persevere in this direction.

Butter-fat production.

1927-28.				1926-27.			
lb.				lb.			
European	...	...	240,962 }	First grade	...	...	{ 307,531
Native	...	...	16,623 }				{ 4,252
Total	...	...	257,585	Total	...	...	311,783
European	...	...	61,637 }	Second grade	...	...	{ 48,523
Native	...	...	18,623 }				{ 8,608
Total	...	...	80,260	Total	...	...	57,131
European	...	...	18,603 }	Third grade	...	...	{ 40,650
Native	...	...	8,253 }				{ 33,316
Total	...	...	26,856	Total	...	...	73,966
European	...	...	Nil }	Below grade	...	...	{ Nil
Native	...	...	24 }				{ 6,156
European	...	...	321,202 }	Total, Butter-fat	...	...	{ 396,704
Native	...	...	43,523 }				{ 52,332
Total	...	...	364,725	Total	...	...	449,036

Cheese production (European).

					1927-28.	1926-27.
					lb.	lb.
Cheddar	...	...	...	...	90,549	113,553
Gouda	...	...	...	...	23,838	21,058
Total					114,387	134,611

Farm butter.

1927-28.	1926-27.
5,415 lb.	2,081 lb.

(NOTE.—Butter consumed by the producer is not included. Butter manufactured at Lobatsi and kept in cold storage there is also omitted, but the butter-fat used in its manufacture is included under its heading).

Value of Dairy Products.

				1927-28.	1926-27.
<i>European.</i>				lb. £	lb. £
Butter-fat...	...	...	...	321,202 24,796	396,704 23,878
Cheese	...	...	...	114,387 7,149	134,611 6,730
Farm butter	...	...	...	5,415 541	2,081 176
				£32,486	£30,754
<i>Native.</i>					
Butter-fat...	...	...	...	43,523 3,212	52,332 2,657
				£35,698	£33,441

The quality of the cream produced in the Territory continues to show steady improvement, and now compares very favourably with that produced in neighbouring territories. As a result, better prices have been realised, and the value of the total output shows an increase over last year, notwithstanding that, owing to the drought conditions that prevailed during the greater part of the year, the quantity decreased.

A move towards amalgamation of the various cheese-making interests was made but was unsuccessful. The Dairy Expert nevertheless did his utmost to interest Rhodesian and Congo buyers in Protectorate cheese, and succeeded so well that the present production could be absorbed by those markets many times over.

The expert organized a large Protectorate cheese exhibit for the Bulawayo and Salisbury Shows. Since the last report was compiled the following prizes have been gained at these Shows with either the Cheddar or Gouda variety manufactured in the Territory: at Bulawayo (1927), four Firsts, one Second; at Salisbury (1927), best exhibit of 500 lb. suitable for export, three Seconds; at Bulawayo (1928), best exhibit of cheese, best exhibit of soft cheese, two Firsts, five Seconds. The Right Honourable L. S. Amery, M.P., Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs, was present at the Salisbury Show, and commented very favourably on the Protectorate exhibits. Several successes have also been gained by Protectorate cheese-makers at some of the smaller Rhodesian shows.

Chief Exports for last 5 years.

	1923-24.		1924-25.		1925-26.		1926-27.		1927-28.	
	£		£		£		£		£	
Kaffir Corn ...	5,379 bags	3,348	6,306 bags	4,438	6,403 bags	2,815	3,989 bags	4,122	1,659 bags	1,121
Mealies ...	703 "	484	41 "	40	11,859 "	5,654	2,888 "	1,546	—	—
Cheese ...	68,752 lb.	3,467	59,790 lb.	2,844	687 lb.	31	134,611 lb.	6,730	114,387 lb.	7,149
Cattle ...	18,147 head	71,155	24,481 head	86,256	33,563 head	144,686	31,889 head	159,445	30,060 head	137,569
Sheep and Goats	7,693 "	5,457	16,981 "	12,009	11,921 "	8,457	13,364 "	11,359	16,407 "	12,800
Pigs ...	44 "	51	—	—	612 "	2,180	1,674 "	3,348	1,410 "	2,215
Hides ...	467,280 lb.	12,206	77,649 lb.	19,947	918,665 lb.	27,025	2,283,506 lb.	41,660	1,506,635 lb.	66,870
Skins (Sheep and Goats).	61,279 "	4,192	45,000 "	2,171	97,549 "	2,743	91,875 "	3,599	69,374 "	3,556
Skins and Karosses (wild animals).	13,316 No.	5,583	47,324 No.	12,820	68,192 No.	10,456	55,643 No.	12,840	72,990 No.	16,814
Butter - fat and Cream.	166,160 lb.	14,304	338,401 lb.	20,360	340,966 lb.	22,082	449,036 lb.	26,535	364,725 lb.	28,008
Firewood ...	5,570 tons	2,792	2,597 tons	2,554	4,013 tons	3,194	6,971 tons	5,773	4,838 tons	3,970
Gold ...	3,040 oz.	12,771	1,372 oz.	5,762	3,672 oz.	15,432	3,807 oz.	15,979	2,063 oz.	8,656

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

There is practically no internal trade in the Territory. Generally speaking, traders mostly have dealings with firms in the Union or Rhodesia. In a few isolated instances there are direct importations from Great Britain, Belgium, India, and elsewhere overseas, but, in the absence of Customs statistics, no particulars can be given. The export trade almost wholly comprises cattle, small stock and their by-products, and as it is governed by more or less arbitrary conditions, it has been more conveniently dealt with under the heading of Production as heretofore. To what was stated there the following paragraph may be added here :—

The cattle trade in the Tuli Block would be more lucrative if sales of stock (other than pedigree stock) for breeding purposes in the Transvaal could be allowed by the Veterinary authorities. Such an embargo has for long prevailed against the entry of such cattle into the Southern Protectorate, but this has been removed since the end of the period nominally covered by this Report. This should improve the prospects of the Tuli settlers, who have always taken great pains to improve their cattle, in spite of the absence of a market for breeding stocks. It will be realised from what is stated elsewhere that the Ghanzi District is perhaps the finest cattle rearing country in the Territory and that the cattle trade there is severely restricted as regards outlet, a difficulty which the Administration has now resolutely set itself to remove. It is the only industry upon which the European residents can depend for a livelihood, and it is satisfactory to record that, in spite of existing drawbacks, 2,650 head of cattle were purchased from the local farmers and that the prices realised were satisfactory.

The business done at the traders' stores has suffered a considerable set-back during the year ended 31st March, 1928, so far as importation of general merchandise is concerned. The decrease was from £274,414 to £235,492. This may be explained by the fact that the natives have had to spend their money on the purchase of food instead of on other goods, owing to the three bad crop seasons in succession. It has been ascertained that over £20,000 went in this way in the Bamangwato Reserve alone. For the same reason, probably, importations of cattle and other live stock declined from £28,278 to £18,552. On the other hand, vehicles improved from £6,361 to £8,468, though this is doubtless due to increased use of motor-cars. An increase of £25,177 in cereals brought into the Territory is natural in the circumstances explained above. The total imports were £309,836 in 1927-28 against £331,200 in the previous year, and the exports £293,851 against £297,056.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

There are only three money-order, savings banks, and telegraph offices in the Territory, viz., at Lobatsi, Serowe, and Francistown. Besides these there are four postal-order and telegraph agencies, all on the railway line, and fourteen postal-order agencies. The postal work at all of these is controlled on behalf of the Administration by the Postmaster-General of the Union of South Africa; the telegraph work by the Postmaster-General of Southern Rhodesia, to which Government the telegraph lines along the railway line belong, as well as a telegraph telephone line from Serowe to Macloutsie and Fort Tuli. Lobatsi has recently been connected with the trunk telephone system of the Union, the telephone lines in that vicinity being controlled by the Postmaster-General at Pretoria.

During the year 1927-28 the issues of postal and money orders totalled 13,780 with a value of £9,243 as against 16,239 valued at £9,282 during 1926-27.

In 1927-28, 4,276 orders were paid out to the value of £3,985, as against 4,080 valued at £3,486 in 1926-27.

The rate of postage on letters posted within the Territory for delivery therein or for delivery in the Union of South Africa, Southern and Northern Rhodesia, and the Province of Mozambique is 1d. for each ounce or fraction thereof; to Great Britain and North Ireland and other British Possessions 2d. for each ounce or fraction thereof.

Agricultural post services at low rates have been instituted with the Union of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia.

The main line of the Rhodesia Railways, Limited, 400 miles in length, runs through the eastern portion of the Territory. This is the only line of railway.

At present the roads from railway stations and sidings to the principal villages serve for motor transport. Of these the best of any considerable length are from Palapye Road to Serowe, constructed by the Serowe Automobile Club, and from Gaberones to Molepolole, constructed by the Administration. Having regard to the huge size of the Territory and its exiguous resources, the Administration cannot as yet attempt more than rendering safe for motor traffic as many as possible of the existing tracks through the bush along the principal routes. The Bamangwato Chief is rendering useful assistance in his Reserve, and by the end of the present year it is anticipated that there will be a tolerably good road for motor traffic all the way from the north to the south of the Territory.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

The number of cases adjudicated upon by officials of the Administration during the year 1927-28 was 1,090, as against 724 in 1926-27 and 554 in 1925-26.

There were 16 cases of homicide : of these, 5 were acquitted, 1 death sentence was commuted to 2 years' imprisonment with hard labour, 9 were sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour, and 1 was handed over to the Union Authorities for trial.

There were 54 cases of other offences against the person, in 47 of which conviction followed ; 175 offences against property, with 134 convictions ; and 845 prosecutions for other offences, in which 691 convictions followed.

Police.

Proclamation No. 41 of 1927 superseded the C.M.R. Act previously in force in the Territory, and made provision for the maintenance and discipline of the Police Force in the Bechuanaland Protectorate ; and High Commissioner's Notice No. 99 of 1927 set forth the General Regulations governing the Force.

The existing Police Establishment is as follows :—

- 1 Inspector.
- 6 Sub-Inspectors.
- 24 European Non-Commissioned Officers.
- 50 Mounted Native Police.
- 215 Dismounted Native Police.

Provision was made in the Estimates for the year 1928-29 for facilities for the training of Native Police at Gaberones, involving alterations and additions to the existing camp at that place. A qualified Native Drill Instructor has been appointed (an ex-Sergeant-Major of the Barotse Native Police) and training operations have been commenced at Headquarters, pending the completion of the buildings at Gaberones, with satisfactory results.

Prisons.

Legislation of some importance in respect of prisons has also been promulgated during the year. Proclamation No. 21 of 1927 amended the existing law relating to prisons, and provided for the general government and good management thereof, and for the maintenance of discipline therein, while High Commissioner's Notice No. 57 of 1927 set forth the detailed Regulations which will, in future, apply to the prisons of the Territory, in place of the Cape Regulations which were previously in force.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

In 1927-28 a Post Office was erected at Lobatsi at a cost of £650, this being the first Government building of the kind in the Territory. Quarters for the Government Veterinary Officer at Lobatsi were also built.

A somewhat extensive building programme was provided for under the Vote "Capital Works Expenditure" for the year 1928-29. The major works being the new hospitals at Serowe and Lobatsi, costing £4,000 and £6,000 respectively, and quarters for various Government officials. This is the first time that public works have been met out of surplus balances, instead of out of current revenue.

At Serowe the hospital work is now proceeding satisfactorily, and the walls have been built up to window level. The Medical Officer's quarters and the outhouses and mortuary are well in hand. The foundation stone of the hospital was laid on the 1st November by Seretse, the young Chief of the Bamangwato, in the presence of the Resident Commissioner, who delivered the following message from His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales :—

"I am very pleased to be associated with this building, which owes its inception to the hospitality shown me by the late Chief Sekgoma, on the occasion of my visit to Serowe in 1925. I trust the Bamangwato will be always as mindful of their sick as they are generous to their guests."

The stone is inscribed :—

SEKGOMA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

Erected with the aid of contributions made by

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES

and

CHIEF SEKGOMA KHAMA.

This stone was laid and this building dedicated to the welfare of his father's people by the Chief's infant son and heir.

SERETSE.

1st November, 1928.

The work is being carried out departmentally, under the direct supervision of the Superintending Clerk of Works.

With regard to the other buildings under the supervision of this official, the foundations have been completed for a Post Office and for the Dairy Expert and Inspector's quarters at Mahalapye, for the Government Veterinary Officer's quarters at Palapye Road, and for the quarters of the Assistant Resident Magistrate at Serowe.

The question of adapting standard types of houses for Government officials is under consideration, and several type plans have been supplied by the Union Public Works Department, with a view to their adaptation to the conditions of the Territory.

Water Boring.—A 6-inch Jumper Drill has been purchased and a Drill Foreman engaged. The machine has been tested and will shortly undertake boring operations in the desert with a view to opening roads and cattle routes.

In October last a Government Engineer was appointed to take charge of a Public Works Department, which is now being organized.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The health conditions in the Bechuanaland Protectorate during the year ended 31st March, 1928, have been, as regards widespread prevalence of disease, the worst for the past ten years. During the winter of 1927, which ushered in a series of severe outbreaks of fever, following upon cold snaps, the incidence of disease was little less favourable than what is usual at that date. But with the opening and advance of summer, there was a sudden rise in the prevalence of fever, which continued to increase until, during January, February, and March, it had assumed epidemic form and prostrated thousands of the native population.

The epidemic was chiefly confined to the southern portions of the Protectorate—especially the alluvial levels—the valleys and low-lying granitic areas, abutting on the main watersheds—Molepolole, Mochudi, Gaberones, Ramoutsa, and Gopane.

Associated with this extensive prevalence of malaria were the invariable complications of influenza and bronchial catarrhs—bronchitis, acute pneumonia, rheumatic affections, enteritis, and other common sequelae. The total returns of disease, which are the heaviest on record (close upon 20,000 cases) have been swelled to these unusual proportions by the record of many ailments, concurrent and otherwise, which the increased medical activities in connection with the epidemic brought under observation.

Free Government supplies of quinine were issued to the areas most severely affected. And this, together with measures of supervision of distribution and energetic medical attention, helped to mitigate the effects of the disease. A fortunate and remarkable feature of the epidemic was the low rate of mortality. At Mochudi, where over a thousand cases of malaria were seen, there were only two deaths, and these of indirect or remote connection. At Gaberones, Molepolole, Ramoutsa, and Gopane, where the numbers seen were still greater, the death rate was equally low in proportion.

The epidemic outbreaks were largely determined by the conditions prevailing over the Southern Protectorate throughout the summer, that is, heavy rains at long intervals, over the impervious, low-lying and easily waterlogged areas; the constitutional lack of stamina of the people on the low-lying lands as against those on the higher levels—which is a long observed and constant factor—invariably shows up under unusual meteorological conditions, such as heavy rains or severe cold snaps.

Of other epidemic and infectious diseases the returns for the year show :—

Anthrax, 15 cases—1 death; dysentery, infantile or undefined diarrhoeas, 627 cases; influenza, 257 cases; tuberculosis, 142 cases; puerperal fever, 2 cases; leprosy, 16 cases; enteric fever, 8 cases—1 death; tetanus, 2 cases—1 death; cerebro-spinal meningitis, 5 cases; scarlet fever, 1 case; measles, 13 cases; and a few cases of whooping cough, mumps, and chicken pox. The tubercular cases generally gave a history connecting the origin of the disease with working on the Rand mines, whilst the unusual outbreaks of enteric fever were clearly traced to the Lichtenburg diamond diggings.

There has been an increase in the number of syphilitics treated, the returns for the various districts being as follows :—

Francistown	...	...	...	...	...	93
Serowe	...	...	...	...	...	128
Gaberones, Molepolole, and Ramoutsa	...	...	...	...	...	555
Mochudi	...	...	...	...	...	162
Maun	...	...	...	...	...	240
Ghanzi	...	...	...	...	...	9

whilst Kanye, Moshupa, and Manyana alone show 3,595 attendances.

During the month of November, water was struck on the site selected for the Serowe Hospital. Subsequent tests have proved the supply to be ample, and as the bedrock is pure sandstone, the supply is not likely to vary or be affected by drought. The work of clearing the site and fixing the position of the hospital and accessory buildings has since been put in hand, the hospital plans reviewed and adopted in final form, and it is intended that the new hospital shall be finished, equipped, and staffed during the next financial year.

The position with regard to the extension of plague and the proximity to the Protectorate borders of suspected and proved infection gave cause for increased vigilance, and at the end of the financial year measures were under consideration for taking practical steps, during the coming summer, towards conducting a rodent-infected survey of the Protectorate along the boundaries of possible approach.

IX.—EDUCATION.

During the year 1927-28 there were in the Bechuanaland Protectorate 10 schools for European children, attended by approximately 263 children, one coloured school at Francistown comprising 22 children, and 86 native schools with an attendance of approximately 6,522 pupils.

Most of the schools, both European and native, are under the control of School Committees, generally presided over by the Magistrate of the District, who pays periodical visits of inspection.

The European schools received Government grants-in-aid amounting to £1,790.

Education grants for primary education are available for the children of European residents, and a sum of £880 was spent in this connection.

Commencing on 1st April, 1928, special bursaries are also awarded, under certain specified conditions, to the children of European residents of the Bechuanaland Protectorate, who have passed Standard VI in the Territory, and are capable of taking advantage of secondary education at schools outside its boundaries, either in the Union or in Rhodesia.

The native schools are mostly under the aegis of Missionary Societies, and, with the exception of the salary of the Principal of the National School at Mochudi, which is paid out of general revenue, they are mainly financed from the Native Fund, from which the amount of £4,253 has been expended on education generally and on the upkeep of school buildings, etc.

In addition to their contribution to the Native Fund, the Bamangwato have almost entirely defrayed the expenses of their school at Serowe, which is a fine one with a good attendance.

An annual grant of £300 (£150 from the Government and £150 from the Native Fund) is made to the Tiger Kloof Institution for the training of native teachers, and grants of £300 from the general revenue of the territory and of £90 from the Native Fund have been made to the London Missionary Society towards education on behalf of the natives. A grant of £20 is also made annually to the native school at Andara.

Schools for natives were opened during the year at Kasika, Manzana, Mebede, Ntshe, Dikwana (Kgoro), and Kokon, in the Chobe, Francistown, and Ngwaketsi Districts respectively.

A native Agricultural Demonstrator has recently been engaged, at a salary of £96 per annum, to give instruction in methods of agriculture to natives of the schools of the Chobe District.

Owing to pressure of work in Basutoland, and pending the proposed appointment of an Inspector of Education for the Bechuanaland Protectorate and Swaziland, there has been no

general inspection of the schools of the Territory this year. At the special request, however, of the European School Committee at Francistown, the Principal of the National School at Mochudi carried out an inspection and reported favourably upon its work.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEYS.

Primarily, all the lands in the Protectorate belonged to the several native tribes to be found within its border, except that sovereignty over what is generally known as the Tati Concession, or Tati District, was claimed by Chief Khama of the Bamangwato and by the Matabele Chief Lobengula. In 1895, on behalf of their respective tribes, the Chiefs Khama, Sebele and Bathoen abandoned certain territory. By Order in Council dated the 16th May, 1904, the territory thus abandoned was declared Crown Lands and vested in His Majesty's High Commissioner for South Africa, who was empowered to make grants or leases thereof on such terms and conditions as he might think fit, subject to the directions of the Secretary of State.

An Order in Council passed on the 10th January, 1910, added to the Crown Lands above mentioned all other land in the Bechuanaland Protectorate elsewhere than in the Tati District, with the exception of (1) land included in any native reserve duly set apart by Proclamation, or the subject of any grant duly made by or on behalf of His Majesty, and (2) the 41 farms known as "the Barolong Farms," and vested such lands in the High Commissioner, subject to the provisions of the Order in Council of the 16th May, 1904.

The doubts as to the ownership of the lands in the Tati District were resolved by an Order in Council passed on the 4th May, 1911, which vested these lands in His Majesty, and empowered the High Commissioner to grant them to the Tati Concessions, Limited, in full ownership. This grant was effected by Proclamation No. 2 of 1911, including the right to all minerals and precious stones under the land.

The boundaries of the 41 Barolong Farms (which comprise all the land reserved to the Barolong Tribe within the Protectorate) were defined by Proclamation No. 1 of 1896. The boundaries of the Bamangwato, Batawana, Bakgatla, Bakwena, and Bangwaketse Tribes were defined by Proclamation No. 9 of 1899, as amended by Proclamations Nos. 14 of 1907 and 55 of 1908 in respect of the Bakwena, and of the Bamalete Tribe by Proclamation No. 28 of 1909.

With the exception of five farms that had already been granted to pioneers by native chiefs and certain land retained for Government purposes, the Crown land along the eastern border of the Protectorate was granted to the British South Africa Company by Proclamations Nos. 4, 12, and 13 of 1905.

Certain settlers to whom the late Mr. Cecil Rhodes had, under the Charter of the British South Africa Company, granted tracts of land in the Ghanzi District were in 1898 and 1899 confirmed in their holdings by the High Commissioner on certain conditions including the payment of an annual quitrent at the rate of £5 per thousand morgen (a morgen=2.1165 English acres).

Apart from trading sites, which usually do not exceed 50 yards by 50 yards in extent, 10 farms of 1,000 morgen each and one of 5,000 morgen have been leased by the Government to European settlers at an annual rental of £5 and £25 respectively. These leases are renewable annually. As a rule, preference is given to persons of European descent who are already domiciled within the Territory.

Under an agreement between the Administration and the Imperial Cold Storage and Supply Company, Limited, signed in June, 1925, 250,000 morgen of Crown Land on the northern bank of the Molopo River have been placed at the disposal of the Company free of charge for 25 years, in consideration of the Company having agreed to erect cold storage and refrigerating works within the Territory and to purchase a minimum number of 10,000 Protectorate cattle annually for use in such works.

The Crown Lands remaining available for disposal comprise about 108,000 square miles.

The British South Africa Company and the Tati Company, Limited, have disposed of to European settlers a considerable quantity of the land placed at their disposal by the above-mentioned Proclamations.

No surveys have been made of any land within the Territory, except where such land has been granted to private corporations or individuals.

There are no irrigation works on any large scale within the Territory. Apart from the rivers Marico, Limpopo, Zambesi, and Chobe and apart from the Okovango marshes and their outlets, there are practically no surface waters, except in the rainy season. The Rhodesian Railways, Limited, have constructed several dams in connection with the working of the railway line, viz. :—

	<i>Capacity in gallons.</i>
Lobatsi	15,000,000
Metsimaswaana (Notwani Siding)	45,000,000
Mileage 1197	5,000,000
Palapye	15,000,000
Tsessebe (Inchwe River)	12,000,000
Pilane	9,000,000

Water-boring and well-sinking operations undertaken in the neighbourhood of the railway line and at Serowe by the Administration, farmers, and others have generally yielded good results. In March last, the services of the Chief Boring Superintendent of the Union (Mr. F. E. Leeson) were lent to the Administration by the Union Government, and much useful advice towards this end was obtained from him. A tour through the Tati District of the Southern Rhodesian Boring Superintendent (Mr. C. A. Anderson) was arranged with his Government in May, and his advice was given to the farmers there and to the Tati Company. Chief Isang Pilane of the Bakgatla tribe has been particularly enterprising in boring for water in his Reserve. After the £500 appropriated from the Native Fund had been expended, he devoted £1,200 of tribal money to the purpose. Out of 16 holes sunk, seven yielded excellent results at no great depth.

Several attempts have been made by the Administration to open up the underground waters to the west in the Kalahari Desert. These have so far yielded only meagre results, but the Administration have not been in a position to offer very attractive terms, taking into consideration the geographical and other physical difficulties of the case. When water is struck, it is sometimes too brackish. The opinion, however, has often been expressed that by deep boring plentiful supplies of good water will be found, and the waterless and useless tract of land now known as the Kalahari Desert may yet be transformed into one of the finest ranching countries in the world. As is stated elsewhere, the Administration are about to send a drilling machine of their own into the Desert.

XI.—LABOUR.

Labour conditions, as understood in Europe and America, have scarcely as yet developed in the Bechuanaland Protectorate. Such little labour as is required by European firms and residents is regulated by the old Masters and Servants Acts of the Cape Colony as in force in the Territory. For native tribal purposes, from time immemorial, necessary labour has been performed by "regiments," through which all, high and low, must pass and which must obey the Chief's orders. There is nothing of servitude about it; it is a matter of self-help and utility and tribal discipline. Since 1925, whenever it has become necessary to make use of such regiments for Government purposes, payment is made to the individuals for their labour.

No native labour is imported into the Territory.

Labour for service on the Witwatersrand gold mines, the Natal coal mines, and the diamond mines of South-West Africa is recruited under the conditions imposed by the Native Labour Proclamation No. 45 of 1907 as subsequently amended, which amply protects the liberty of the labourer. Only in the case of South

West Africa may labour be engaged from the tropical regions lying north of Latitude 22° S. Many natives find their own way from the Southern Protectorate to the adjacent diamond diggings.

XII.—VETERINARY.

Staff Changes.—Two permanent Veterinary Officers were added to the staff during the year, making a total of five Veterinary Surgeons working under the Chief Veterinary Officer, one of whom holds a temporary appointment.

Lung-sickness Campaign.

Bamangwato Reserve.—At the beginning of the period under review there were 10 quarantines in the Bamangwato Reserve, with a total number of 10,684 quarantined cattle under the supervision of the Government Veterinary Officer at Palapye Road.

This number was gradually reduced, and all animals were liberated and quarantines raised during the year, the last animal destroyed being at Maunatala on 21st December, 1927.

This outbreak, which occurred at Dikgatlon in the Maunatala district and where 14 animals were destroyed, was the only serious one encountered during the period under review.

Botletle River.—The position in this area, which was controlled by the Government Veterinary Officer, Rakops, was also markedly improved during the year, which opened with three quarantine areas and included 2,116 animals, and ended with one quarantine area containing 117 animals.

Andara.—One outbreak of the disease occurred near Mohembo, on the southern boundary of the western end of the Caprivi Strip, and was due to a "Lunger" being left over from infection introduced from either the South-West Protectorate or Angola during the previous year.

The Government Veterinary Officer stationed at Maun adopted prompt measures and slaughtered the infected herds, comprising 230 head of cattle, spread over seven cattle posts. The cattle which were slaughtered and found free from the disease on post-mortem were replaced by the Administration by similar cattle, an arrangement which was more acceptable to the native owners, who were largely dependent on milk for their food, than a money payment as compensation.

Anthrax.

Next in importance on the list of scheduled animal diseases in the Bechuanaland Protectorate is anthrax. This disease is on the increase and is largely due to the native custom of skinning the carcase and eating the meat of all cattle that die.

A considerable amount of propaganda work has been done in connection with preventive measures which should be adopted in

the infected areas of the Native Reserves, and it is gratifying to observe that the native demand for anthrax vaccine shows a marked increase and that the natives are more inclined to carry out the inoculation themselves.

Quarter Evil.

Quarter Evil has exacted the usual toll amongst young cattle, and similar remarks to those made regarding anthrax apply to this disease.

Liver Disease of Calves.

Fortunately this disease has been of lesser frequency, and of a milder type than in previous years.

Trypanosomiasis.

This disease is most prevalent in the Khamokuni country and other recognized "fly-belts" of Ngamiland.

Although the tsetse-fly belts are fairly well defined, the infected areas expand and contract as climatic conditions are favourable or detrimental to the spread of the fly.

Wherever serious losses have occurred, it was generally due to carelessness in herding, by which animals were permitted to graze too close to the fly belt.

The intrajugular injection of potassium antimony tartrate had continued to give satisfactory results, but we have found that the injections have to be continued weekly for several months before a permanent cure is effected.

Snotziekte.

For the first time in the history of the Bechuanaland Protectorate this disease, of which little is known to-day, has to be recorded. It has been observed at five centres in the Tuli Block.

It is caused by close contact with wildebeeste, and probably transmitted by a bloodsucking insect from infected wildebeeste to healthy cattle.

The disease is fatal in 97 per cent. of cases.

Scab.

In December, 1926, the operations of the scab clauses of the Diseases of Stock Regulations, 1926 were, at the request of the natives themselves, extended to the Bakgatla Reserve. With the assistance of a Government advance, seven sheep-dipping tanks have been constructed, and a campaign for the eradication of scab in this Reserve inaugurated.

During March all small stock adjoining the Cape Province border, from Ramathlabama to approximately one hundred miles west, were twice dipped under Government supervision.

Exports.

The following are the number of cattle exported during the period under review :—

To the Johannesburg Abattoir	11,964
To Durban for export overseas	10,050
To the Belgian Congo	6,510
To Portuguese Angola	1,536
Total ...	30,060

The following small stock was exported :—

To Rhodesia	13,732
To the Union via Ramathlabama Quarantine Camp	2,675
Total ...	16,407

1,410 pigs were exported to the Union and a few to Rhodesia.

Imports.

The following animals were imported into the Territory during the year :—

Cattle	635
Horses	216
Mules	8
Pigs	118
Donkeys	367
Sheep and goats	2,318

Vaccines.

The following vaccines were consumed in the Territory during the year :—

	<i>Doses.</i>
Anthrax Vaccine	45,485
Quarter Evil Vaccine	9,500
Blue Tongue Vaccine	200
Horse Sickness Serum	18
Contagious Abortion Vaccine	50

The new scheme for the eradication of lung-sickness, by which the "Lunger" will be eliminated, will shortly be brought into force.

An area lying to the east of the railway line between Palapye Road and Mahalapye, roughly 20 miles by 10, has been fenced in and subdivided into three camps, and will be used for the reception of in-contact cattle, where they will be treated and grazed until it becomes a business proposition to dispose of them for slaughter purposes.

Fencing work is now completed, while an adequate water supply for each camp has been struck. All that remains to be done is to install the necessary power-plant for raising the water and constructing storage reservoirs, drinking troughs, etc., so that the new scheme should be inaugurated during the coming year.

XIII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Ngamiland Floods, 1926-1927.

*Report by the Resident Magistrate, Ngamiland,
dated 4th April, 1928.*

The floods during 1926-27 fell short of expectations and registered two feet less at Andara than in the former year 1925-26.

Heavy rains reported from Angola were responsible for an early flood which commenced in the latter end of December, 1926. The country, however, was in such a dry state that large absorption probably took place within the Ngamiland Territory.

For this reason the floods took a considerable time to reach the Lake, and it was not until May, 1927, that the water reached the Boro River.

The Thamalakan at Maun reached its highest level on the 1st August, 1927, when it registered 3 feet 5½ inches. The water began to drop on the 11th August.

The rainfall during the period under review was the lowest since the year 1912-1913, and registered 10.78, that of the latter period being 9.9.

During August, 1927, I visited Lake N'gami by motor-boat from Maun via the Botletle River.

I found a considerable quantity of water from the Tsau Drift extending westwards, and the channel which runs into the Lake from Toten shown on Captain Stigand's map was running very strongly. There was, however, less water in the Lake than there was in the previous season, and during September the water began to subside.

C. L. O'B. DUTTON,

Government Secretary.

23rd November, 1928.

Reports of Imperial and Colonial Interest.

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE, 1926.

Summary of Proceedings. Cmd. 2768 ... 1s. 0d. (1s. 1d.)

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Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings.

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Summary of Proceedings. Cmd. 2883 ... 1s. 3d. (1s. 4d.)

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Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings.

Cmd. 2884 4s. 6d. (4s. 9½d.)

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Report of a Committee appointed by the
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Cmd. 2825 2s. 0d. (2s. 1½d.)

COLONIAL AGRICULTURE.

Report of a Committee appointed by the
Secretary of State for the Colonies
on the Colonial Agricultural Service.

Cmd. 3049 9d. (10d.)

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COLONY AND PROTECTORATE
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Report for 1927.

*(For Reports for 1925 and 1926 see Nos. 1321 (Price 1s.)
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REPORT ON THE COLONY AND PROTECTORATE OF KENYA FOR THE YEAR 1927.

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PREFATORY NOTE.

Geography.

The Colony and Protectorate of Kenya is traversed centrally from east to west by the Equator and from north to south by Meridian Line $37\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ East of Greenwich. It extends from 4° North to 4° South of the Equator and from 34° East Longitude to 41° East. The land area is 221,089 square miles and the water area 4,011 square miles, making a total area of 225,100 square miles. The water area includes the larger portion of Lake Rudolf and the eastern waters of the Victoria Nyanza, including the Kavirondo Gulf.

The official time used is the zone time three hours fast on Greenwich.

The physiography of Kenya may be broadly conceived as consisting of :—

(1) A low-lying region, less than 3,000 feet in height and comprising about three-fifths of the total area of the Colony. This region extends from the sea to approximately the 38th degree of East Longitude. Apart from the Coast strip, which is essentially tropical, it is poorly watered and mostly covered with thorn scrub.

(2) A plateau raised by volcanic action to a height varying from 3,000 to 9,000 feet and extending in a westerly direction for about 200 miles to the 35th degree of East Longitude. It continues in the south across the boundary of Tanganyika Territory and in the north to about the 2nd degree of North Latitude. This plateau is characterised by extensive open plains such as those of the Athi River and the Uasin Gishu Plateau.

(3) The great Rift Valley formed by the subsidence of a portion of the elevated plateau and containing Lake Rudolf and numerous smaller lakes, some of fresh water and others impregnated with soda, and many extinct volcanoes. It extends in a direction generally north and south, the eastern wall formed by the Laikipia Escarpment, Aberdare Range, and Kikuyu Escarpment and the western wall by the Mau Escarpment which is known as the Elgeyo Escarpment in the north.

(4) The district near the Victoria Nyanza, the high plateau making a somewhat rapid descent to the shores of the lake where, at an altitude of 3,726 feet above sea-level, a tropical climate is again found. The floor of the Nyanza basin is normally fairly level, but it is intersected by numerous broad and shallow valleys.

From the Mau Escarpment northwards the Nzoia, Yala, Kuja, and Amala Rivers flow into the Victoria Nyanza. Northwards the River Turkwel from Mount Elgon and the Kerio from the Elgeyo Escarpment flow into or towards Lake Rudolf. The southern and eastern slopes of Mount Kenya and the eastern side of the Aberdare Range give rise to the Tana River, which enters the Indian Ocean near Lamu. From the Aberdares also flows the Athi River which, with its principal tributary, the Tsavo, from Kilimanjaro, enters the Ocean as the Sabaki River near Malindi. The Northern Uaso Nyiro traverses Laikipia and flows in an easterly direction north of Mount Kenya to the Lorian Swamp. The Southern Uaso Nyiro from the Mau Escarpment passes southward along the bed of the Rift Valley into Lake Natron in Tanganyika Territory.

Mount Kenya, after which the Colony is named, is 17,040 feet in height and is capped by perpetual snow and ice. Mount Elgon, also an extinct volcano, is 14,140 feet in height and is slightly below the level of perpetual snow. The Aberdare Range contains Settima (13,000 feet) and Mount Kinangop (12,816 feet). The Mau Escarpment attains a height of over 10,000 feet.

The slopes of Kenya and Elgon and of the mountain ranges on either side of the Rift Valley are clothed in forests. The less

settled areas of the Colony abound in game and many of the upper waters of mountain streams have been stocked with trout.

There are no marked seasonal changes such as winter and summer. At high altitudes the diurnal variation of temperature is high, being as much as 30° F. in some localities, but the mean temperature varies little from month to month.

The range of temperature between different parts of Kenya is very wide. At Lamu on the coast the mean shade temperature is 80° F. At Mombasa it is 77° F. In Kisumu, on the Victoria Nyanza, is it 72.5° F. In the Rift Valley and highland areas the mean temperature is normally between 58° F. and 65° F.

The rainfall is generally well distributed. Precipitation varies considerably with the physical configuration of the Colony. The average known annual rainfall, taken over a number of years, ranges from 19 inches at Athi River, on the plains some 20 miles south-east of Nairobi, to 86 inches at Songhor in the Nandi Hills east of the Victoria Nyanza. The low-lying districts on the Northern Frontier are dry. The average rainfall occurring in the principal agricultural and pastoral districts is given as approximately 35 to 40 inches, but it is higher west of the Mau Escarpment. The heaviest rainfall is normally experienced from March to June and October to December. Hail is of comparatively rare occurrence and is confined to restricted belts. Frost does not occur below 8,000 feet except in some damp hollows.

History.

The history of the territory now known as Kenya may be divided into four sections. The first deals exclusively with the Coast; the second with the exploration of the hinterland; the third with the partition of Africa among European Powers and the administration of the Imperial British East Africa Company; and the fourth with the administration of the country under the Imperial Government.

(1) It seems probable that Arabs and Persians traded with the East African Coast from the remotest antiquity. The "Periplus of the Erithrean Sea," compiled towards the end of the first century A.D., gives the first account of Zanzibar and the coast of "Azania." In 1331, Ibn Batuta, the Arab explorer, visited Mombasa and found Arabs in undisputed possession of the coast lands. In 1498, Vasco da Gama, with the first Portuguese expedition to round the Cape of Good Hope, sailed along the East African coast. The Coast towns were all under Arab rule and are described as prosperous trading cities. Mombasa, reached on the 7th April, 1498, is referred to as a "great city of trade, with many ships." Vasco da Gama's stay in Mombasa was cut short by an incident which led him, probably without cause, to suspect treachery and he sailed north to Malindi. Of Malindi he writes: "the city was a great one, of noble buildings, and surrounded by walls, and, placed immediately on the shore, it made an imposing appearance."

Cordial relations were established and maintained between the inhabitants of Malindi and the Portuguese, who were able to refit their ships for the voyage to India.

On Vasco da Gama's return to Portugal, a fleet under Cabral was sent to annex India. Cabral looted Mombasa in 1500. In 1505, Francisco Almeyda attacked and destroyed the town and in 1508 Mombasa was formally annexed to Portugal. Twenty years later, as a result of trouble with the inhabitants, the Portuguese under Don Zuna da Cunha captured the city after a siege of four months. In 1586, the city having been rebuilt, a Turkish fleet under Ali Bey visited Mombasa, which placed itself under his protection. The Portuguese retaliated by again burning the town. It was rebuilt only to be burned again by an African tribe known as the Zimba. The Zimba were expelled by the Portuguese who then, in 1594, built Fort Jesus.

In 1630, the inhabitants of Mombasa attacked the fort. The Portuguese capitulated and were murdered. An expedition from India landed and recaptured the fort after a siege of three months. The fort was rebuilt by Xerxas de Cabreira in 1635.

About 1660 the Mazrui, who were the leading Arab clan on the East Coast, entered into an alliance with the Imam of Oman on the Persian Gulf. After a long struggle the Arabs expelled the Portuguese from Mombasa in 1698. Expeditions organised from Lisbon to recapture Mombasa during the following decade were unavailing. In 1728, the Portuguese were again in temporary possession, but in November, 1729, they were finally driven from Mombasa, which came once more under the suzerainty of the Imam of Oman. A Portuguese force sent from India to recapture the town was lost at sea.

Fifteen years later, Mombasa, under a Mazrui named Ali bin Osman, declared itself independent of Muscat. In 1753, the Mombasa Arabs attempted to capture Zanzibar. The attempt failed but Pemba remained under the influence of Mombasa until 1822, when the Mazrui were completely defeated by the Oman Governor of Zanzibar. In the same year, Seyyid Said, who had been declared Imam in 1806, seized Pate and Pemba and threatened Mombasa.

British intervention on the East Coast started in December, 1823, when H.M.S. "Barracouta," commanded by Captain Vidal, arrived in Mombasa during the course of a survey expedition to the East African coast. The inhabitants "begged Captain Vidal to authorize them to hoist the English flag and to place the town and territory in the hands of His Britannic Majesty." This request was referred to Captain Owen of H.M.S. "Leven," who informed them "that provided they would assent to the abolition of the slave trade he would transmit their proposal to his Government for their decision, and that he should have no objection to hold the place in the meantime."

Lieutenant Reitz, third Lieutenant of the "Leven," was appointed Commandant and left in charge of the new Protectorate on the 8th February, 1824. He died of fever after a visit to the Pangani River on the 29th May, 1824, in his twenty-second year. The Protectorate over Mombasa was not confirmed by the British Government. It appears to have lasted about two years, but there is no record of any formal termination.

In 1829, Seyyid Said attacked Mombasa with the consent of the Indian Government. He placed a garrison of 300 Baluchis in the fort but, on his departure to quell a rebellion in Muscat, these were starved into submission by the Mazrui. In 1832, Seyyid Said transferred his Court from Oman to Zanzibar and, with the subjugation of the Mazrui in 1837 and of the Islands of Siu and Patta in 1843, a period of great prosperity ensued along the East African Coast.

Seyyid Said died in 1856. By his will he left the lordship of Oman to his eldest surviving son, Seyyid Thwaini. Zanzibar he left to his next son Seyyid Majid. A dispute arose and the rivals agreed to submit the question of succession to the arbitration of Lord Canning, then Governor-General of India. Lord Canning awarded Oman to Seyyid Thwaini and Zanzibar and the mainland dominions to Seyyid Majid. Seyyid Majid died in 1870. He was succeeded by his brother Seyyid Barghash, whose reign is memorable as witnessing the steady growth of British influence under the care of Sir John Kirk, and the partition of Africa between European Powers.

(2) The history of European endeavour in the hinterland of East Africa centres round the sources of the Nile. Arab explorers had traversed Eastern Africa for many centuries before any information was forthcoming which was accepted as reliable. Their accounts were co-ordinated by early geographers, notably Ptolemy in A.D. 150 and Sanson d'Abbeville in 1635, but it was not until the 19th century that more accurate knowledge was obtained. The Portuguese, during their occupation of the Coast strip, made little effort to explore the hinterland. It was not, indeed, until 1848 that Kilimanjaro was seen by Rebmann. Krapf first saw the snows of Mount Kenya in 1849. The work of these two dauntless missionaries opens the chapter of discovery inland from the East Coast of Africa. It was not until after the discovery of the sources of the Nile that any further progress was made from the East.

The fact that the Nile rises in flood at the driest season of the year presented a problem which had aroused the interest of geographers in all ages. Attempts to solve this problem by a journey up the Nile Valley had failed. The 19th century witnessed determined attempts to reach the head-waters of the Nile from other directions. Sir Richard Burton, in 1854, endeavoured to reach the interior from Berbera, in Somaliland, but his caravan

was massacred. Three years later he tried again, this time from the East Coast opposite Zanzibar. With Speke for his companion he reached Lake Tanganyika. On the return journey, at Kazeh, near Tabora, Speke left Burton and, travelling northwards, first saw the waters of the Victoria Nyanza on the 30th July, 1858. His claim that this lake gave rise to the Nile was disputed, and Speke organised another expedition which left Zanzibar in October, 1860. This expedition, led by Speke and Grant, followed the former route to Kazeh and passed round the western side of the Lake. Speke reached the capital of Mtesa, King of Uganda, on the 19th February, 1862. On the 21st January, 1863, Speke reached the Nile and discovered its outlet from the Lake at the Ripon Falls. Later in the same year, Samuel Baker discovered the Albert Nyanza and the mystery of the origin of the Nile was solved.

Certain geographical questions still, however, awaited settlement and twelve more years elapsed before further information became available. Henry M. Stanley placed a boat on the Victoria Nyanza and circumnavigated the Lake in 1875. He was greatly impressed with the possibilities offered by Uganda as a field for missionary enterprise. His appeals for support reached England at a time when a keen interest was being taken in African work, particularly in connection with the slave trade, and they met with a ready response. The first English mission was sent to Uganda in 1876. Shortly afterwards there arrived two Catholic missionaries belonging to the Order of the White Fathers of Algeria. Mohammedan proselytism was already in progress. The field was set for a series of religious quarrels which dominated the political situation in Uganda for fifteen years.

It was the birth of European interest in Uganda that led to the further exploration of the East African hinterland now known as Kenya. Apart from journeys up the Tana Valley by Wakefield in 1865, and New in 1866, and from visits to Kilimanjaro by Von der Decken in 1863, and New in 1871, little had been added to the knowledge gained by Krapf and Rebman before 1850. In 1862, Dr. G. A. Fischer made the first attempt to discover a route to Uganda more direct than that used by Speke and Stanley. He marched to Kilimanjaro from Pangani and succeeded in crossing Masailand to Lake Naivasha, which he reached on the 11th May, 1883, but he was prevented by ill-health and the Masai from continuing his journey.

The distinction of being the first European to reach the Victoria Nyanza from the east rests with Joseph Thomson, who started from Mombasa in March, 1883, and in spite of many difficulties succeeded in reaching the Lake forty-five miles east of the Ripon Falls. Ill-health prevented him from continuing his journey to the Nile, but the practicability of the route was proved and many important additions had been made to the knowledge of East

African geography. In 1888, Lake Rudolf was discovered by Count Teleki von Szek, whose expedition was the first to traverse Kikuyu country.

(3) European intervention in African affairs was stimulated by the reports regarding the slave trade made by Stanley as a result of his journey from Uganda across the Congo in 1877. The organization of the Congo Free State promoted a certain amount of trade and gave European nations an indication of the commercial value of Central Africa. In 1885, the German Kaiser granted a charter of protection to the Society of German Colonization operating on the mainland opposite Zanzibar, an area which had been assigned to the Sultan of Zanzibar by the Canning award in 1861. The amount of mainland territory over which the Sultan was recognized as having authority had never been defined. This point was referred to an international commission which included in the Sultan's dominions a strip of the coast ten sea miles in depth from the Rovuma to the Tana River and certain other areas in the north. The country behind this coast strip was divided into two spheres of influence, the German sphere being south, and the British sphere north, of a line drawn from the mouth of the Umba River past the northern slopes of Kilimanjaro to the point where the first degree of south latitude intersects the eastern shore of Victoria Nyanza. This line is practically identical with the southern boundary of Kenya to-day.

The agreement did not extend to the north of the Tana River and in 1885 Germany declared a protectorate over the independent Sultanate of Witu.

In 1887, Seyyid Barghash, the Sultan of Zanzibar, granted a concession to the British East African Association on the mainland between the Umba and Tana Rivers, and on the 3rd September, 1888, this Association was incorporated under Royal Charter as the Imperial British East Africa Company. In April, 1888, Seyyid Khalifa, who had succeeded Seyyid Barghash in March, granted a concession of the district that fronted the German sphere to the German East Africa Company.

The German claim to Witu, subsequently extended to include Lamu also, was not recognized by the Sultan who, in January, 1889, offered Sir William Mackinnon, as representative of the British East Africa Company, a lease of Lamu and the adjacent islands. An unfortunate controversy followed, the Germans making every attempt to secure a permanent footing north of the Tana River and the British Company resisting all such claims. It was not until the Anglo-German Treaty of the 1st July, 1890, had been signed that the controversy ended. By that Treaty Germany withdrew her claims to Witu and the territory north of the Tana on the understanding that England should secure for Germany the definite cession of the sphere south of the Umba River leased from the Sultan of Zanzibar, and in exchange for the retrocession of Heligoland.

The controversy over Witu was ruinous to the Imperial British East Africa Company. It diverted a disproportionate amount of the new Company's energies and resources to an unhealthy and comparatively unimportant area. Trouble did not end with the signing of the Anglo-German Treaty. A dispute between the Sultan of Witu and a German timber syndicate led to the massacre of a number of German citizens, and a naval brigade under Admiral Sir E. Fremantle was sent against Witu. The Company found itself under an obligation to maintain a strong and expensive garrison in that area and this, in view of the calls on its finances in other more important parts of its territory, it was unable to afford. In 1893, the Company announced its intention of withdrawing from Witu. The supremacy of British interests in Witu had been recognized by Germany as part of the convention by which the British Government waived all rights over Heligoland, and Witu could not be altogether abandoned. The Imperial Government therefore assumed the administration of that district and declared a protectorate over it on the 31st July, 1893.

Two other difficulties impeded the early operations of the Company. A native insurrection broke out in German East Africa immediately on the arrival of the German administration. The Germans found it necessary to blockade their coast and the British Government agreed to blockade the British Company's coast also to prevent traffic in contraband across the frontier. On the British Company, therefore, rested the stigma of preventing trade with its own territory.

The second difficulty was caused by the action of certain missionaries who permitted the mission stations to be used as asylums for runaway slaves. Feeling against slavery was strong, but it was manifestly impossible to admit the right of the missionaries to offer sanctuary to runaway slaves without affecting economic conditions on the coast and alienating the sympathy of the Arab slave owners. Agreement was reached with the Arabs and the missionaries by which the Arabs consented to grant freedom on compensation to all slaves who had already escaped and the missionaries promised that they would not in future give sanctuary to refugees. On the 1st January, 1889, a historic scene took place at Rabai, a mission station founded by Krapf, 10 miles inland from Mombasa. By the payment of £3,500 the Imperial British East Africa Company secured the liberation of 1,442 slaves.

The early activities of the Imperial British East Africa Company were mainly concentrated on the Coast. The districts intervening between the Coast and the Victoria Nyanza, though known to have great potential resources, were regarded as practically valueless under existing economic conditions. It was realized that the exceptional conditions of natural fertility, climate, and general accessibility would respond to the application of European capital

and enterprise but, apart from the Coast, the area next in importance appeared to be Uganda, and the Company was unwilling to extend its operations so far afield until it had consolidated its work on the littoral. International complications forced the Company's hand and it became necessary for the Company to take part in the administration of Uganda before it was fully equipped to do so.

In 1889, the Company despatched a considerable caravan under F. J. Jackson to explore the interior, establish and mark out stations, and make treaties with the various tribes. Jackson founded a Company's station at Machakos, proceeded by way of Kikuyu, Naivasha and Sotik, and reached Mumias on the 7th November, 1889. While there he was begged by Mwanga, King of Uganda, to enter Uganda and assist him to regain his throne. A commerce monopoly was offered to the Company. As he was under instructions to avoid Uganda, which was known to be in a state of revolution, Jackson felt unable to accept the offer, and went north to examine the country towards Lake Rudolf. On his return to Mumias on the 4th March, 1890, he heard that Dr. Karl Peters, in charge of a German expedition, had passed through on his way to Uganda a month previously.

In October, 1888, it had become known that Lieutenant Wissmann and Dr. Peters had been appointed leaders of an expedition which was to proceed up the Tana River with the ostensible object of relieving Emin Pasha, the Governor of the Equatorial Province of the Sudan who, after the fall of Khartoum, had been cut off from all communications for four years. News of the relief by Stanley of Emin Pasha reached Europe in January, 1889. In the following month Peters left Berlin. His passage through German East Africa was forbidden by the German Government and a British Naval Squadron endeavoured to prevent his landing on the coast of the British sphere. Peters succeeded in avoiding the blockade, landed near Lamu, organized his caravan at Witu, then in German occupation, and started up the Tana Valley towards the end of July. A representative of the British Company, J. R. W. Pigott, had explored the valley of the Tana early in 1889 and had entered into treaties with the natives. Peters destroyed these treaties wherever he could find them. He destroyed the Company's stations and pulled down its flag. As he passed he annexed the country in the name of Germany. He had several encounters with the Kikuyu and with the Masai in Laikipia and on entering Uganda he negotiated a treaty with Mwanga. He then returned to the coast, passing down the western side of Victoria Nyanza, only to find that his labours had been in vain. The Anglo-German Treaty of the 1st July, 1890, had assigned Uganda to the British sphere of influence.

Jackson entered Mengo, the Capital of Uganda, on the 14th April, 1890. He signed a treaty with Mwanga under which Uganda

was included in British territory. He then returned to the Coast leaving his companion, Ernest Gedge, as the Company's representative in Uganda.

Meanwhile Captain F. D. Lugard had joined the Company's staff and had founded a chain of posts connecting Mombasa with Machakos. In 1890, he founded a station on the borders of Kikuyu country at Dagoretti. He was then ordered to Uganda and, by forced marches, succeeded in reaching Mengo on the 18th December, 1890. During the ensuing year he was straining every nerve to reconcile opposing political factions in Uganda. By the end of 1891 the British position in that kingdom seemed at last to be secure. Then came the news that the Imperial British East Africa Company was finding the cost of administering Uganda excessive and had determined to evacuate the country. This order was cancelled in January, 1892, on a private guarantee being given by Sir William Mackinnon to subscribe funds to pay for a year's administration of Uganda. Representations were made to the British Government that they should help the Company. This the Government felt unable to do, but a Government mission under Sir Gerald Portal was eventually sent to report on Uganda and on the advisability of establishing a British Protectorate over it. Instructions were also given for a preliminary survey to be made of a railway from the Coast to Uganda.

Uganda proper was informally placed under the control of the Foreign Office on the 1st April, 1893. The formal proclamation of a protectorate was issued on the 19th June, 1894.

Meanwhile, negotiations had been proceeding between the British Government and the Imperial British East Africa Company for the transfer of the Company's responsibilities in East Africa to the Imperial Government. The Company's withdrawal from Witu in 1893 has already been mentioned. On the 1st July, 1895, a British Protectorate was declared over the Company's territory between the Coast and Naivasha, the territory west of Naivasha having been included in the Uganda Protectorate. The Company received £200,000 for the surrender. The boundaries of the East Africa Protectorate were defined by proclamation on the 31st August, 1896.

The last days of the Company's administration witnessed a rebellion among the Mazrui section of the Coast Arabs, which implicated the inhabitants of most of the Coast towns from Vanga to Kipini.

In February, 1895, a dispute arose as to the succession to the post of Liwali of Takaungu. The rightful heir according to Mohammedan law was Mbaruk, the son of the late Liwali's elder brother. On being passed over in favour of his cousin, who had stronger British inclinations, Mbaruk withdrew to Gonjoro and threatened rebellion. A Naval brigade was despatched against him

and the Mazrui, all sections of whom had now combined, were defeated. Mbaruk fled to Gazi and established a forest stronghold at Mwele. Mwele was taken but the Mazrui then maintained a guerilla warfare with considerable success. Isolated posts and caravans were harassed and the rebel successes encouraged the revolt to spread. Before the end of 1895 practically the whole of the British East African coast lands were in rebellion. Mombasa was never in danger but Malindi was looted. It was not until April, 1896, that the Mazrui leaders, after a series of defeats in small engagements, abandoned the struggle, fled across the border and surrendered to the Governor of German East Africa.

(4) Under Article I of the Brussels Act of 1890 the Signatory Powers included among the means for counteracting the slave trade the construction of railways. The construction of the Uganda Railway developed out of this suggestion. Its early construction was prompted by the desire to obtain a cheap and rapid means of communication to Uganda. A preliminary survey had been made in 1892-3. The first rails were laid in 1895, and by the end of 1901 there was a weekly train service between Mombasa and the Lake. The metre gauge was chosen owing to the facilities so afforded for procuring rolling-stock from India in emergencies. Indian labour was used owing to the scarcity of African labour along the route taken by the railway. The headquarters of the railway were transferred from Mombasa to Nairobi in 1899, and the line to Nairobi was opened in August of that year. The s.s. "Winifred" was launched on the Victoria Nyanza on the 12th December, 1902. The cost of the line up to the end of September, 1903, amounted to £5,317,000.

In 1897, an expedition was organized to explore the country between Abyssinia and Fashoda. The caravan assembled at Eldama Ravine in September and was to be escorted by three companies of Sudanese troops, remnants of Emin Pasha's force, who had seen much recent active service in Uganda. Two days out from Ravine they deserted in a body, passed through Nandi, looting the Government station, and were joined by the rulers of Uganda and Unyoro. The mutiny was quelled in the middle of 1899, but not without the loss of valuable British lives.

Early reports gave the following impression of what was then the East Africa Protectorate. The Protectorate was divided into four Provinces, Jubaland, Tanaland, Seyyidieh, and Ukamba. Its western boundary was the foot of the Kikuyu Escarpment; Jubaland was inhabited by turbulent Somalis; Tanaland, with large potential resources, suffered from lack of population. The fertile coast lands of Seyyidieh were falling off in production. Arab influence was on the wane and the prosperity of this area was being gravely affected by the abolition of the slave trade. Ukamba was administered from Machakos and Kitui, but little was known of the Kikuyu.

Little economic importance was attached to the country between the coast and Uganda. Until the Uganda Railway was built, one of the principal functions of the Administration was to act as forwarding agents for Uganda. There were no towns up-country apart from Machakos—where the establishment of an administrative post led to the settlement of a number of Indian traders—until Nairobi was founded as a railway changing centre in 1898. In three years the population of Nairobi had grown to 8,000.

Mission stations were to be found in all the Provinces. Slavery did not exist outside the Sultan's dominions, where the law still recognised the institution of domestic slavery.

Two important steps in the development of the East Africa Protectorate were taken early in the present century. The western boundaries of the Protectorate were altered in April, 1902, so as to include the Eastern Province of Uganda, stretching as far as the Victoria Nyanza, and including the Mau Escarpment, and the Nandi, Lumbwa and Kavirondo country. In the same year laws were passed defining conditions under which land could be alienated to colonists. By April, 1903, there were nearly 100 Europeans settled in or near Nairobi.

During 1903 numerous applications were received for land in the Rift Valley. The grazing grounds on both sides of the Uganda Railway in the Rift Valley near Naivasha were at that time used by the Masai pastoralists. Agreement was reached with the Masai in 1904 that they should be placed in two reserves, one in Laikipia, some 60 miles north of the railway, and the other to the south of Nairobi, towards German East Africa. Nine years later, under a subsequent treaty, the Masai moved from Laikipia to an extended southern reserve flanking the German border.

On the 1st April, 1905, the Protectorate was transferred from the authority of the Foreign Office to that of the Colonial Office. A Governor and Commander-in-Chief was appointed under an Order in Council, dated the 9th November, 1906, and an Order in Council, dated the 22nd October, 1906, constituted Executive and Legislative Councils. All Foreign Consular Jurisdiction was transferred to the British Court during the year 1908.

During the years preceding the war the economic importance of the Protectorate steadily developed. The European population of the Colony was 5,438 in 1914 and the Indian population 14,131. The value of the export trade had risen from £124,727 in 1902-03 to £443,624 in 1913-14, new industries having sprung up in the form of coffee, fibre, and wool, and a considerable advance having been made in the exports of grain and hides. The Government revenue had grown from £95,284 in 1902-03 to £1,123,798 in 1913-14 and the Government expenditure from £311,469 to £1,115,899. Grants-in-aid from the Imperial Exchequer, which had been necessary in the early days of the administration, were discontinued in 1913.

On the outbreak of war a prompt response was made to the call for volunteers. Defence forces were formed at Mombasa, Nairobi, and Kisumu and three volunteer units were formed, the East African Mounted Rifles, the East African Regiment, and the East African Transport Corps. These measures served to ward off attacks from German East Africa until an Expeditionary Force arrived from India. The southern border was frequently violated by the enemy during 1914 but no permanent damage was done. A period of comparative inactivity followed. In September, 1915, a mass meeting was held in Nairobi at which a resolution was passed placing at the Governor's disposal the entire resources of the country. This was followed by the formation of a War Council and the compulsory registration of all European personnel. In December, 1915, an Ordinance was passed providing for compulsory military and other service. This Ordinance was applied in March, 1917, each case being considered by the War Council and District Committees. Of the 3,145 adult male Europeans in the Protectorate on the outbreak of war, 1,987 served in a military capacity during the war.

The number of African troops was also largely increased. Before the war, one battalion only of the 3rd King's African Rifles had been recruited in the Protectorate. During the war, the 3rd and 4th King's African Rifles raised three battalions each, while the 5th and 7th King's African Rifles raised part of one battalion. The total number of East Africa Protectorate natives serving in these regiments finally amounted to 8,486. In addition, 1,157 Africans were recruited for the Arab Rifles, the Police Battalion, and Police Service Battalion.

A remarkable response was made by the African community in providing men for non-combatant service such as the Carrier Corps, Maxim Gun Porters, and Stretcher Bearers. More than 200,000 enlistments for these purposes are recorded.

During the course of the war, in order to facilitate military operations, a railway line was constructed from Voi to Taveta near the boundary of German East Africa. Thence the line was linked on to the German railway near Moshi.

Although in the early days of the British administration it was found necessary to undertake punitive expeditions against refractory tribes, the history of Kenya has, apart from the war in German East Africa, been comparatively peaceful. Small expeditions were despatched against the Nandi in 1900, 1903, and 1905-06, owing to the depredations of the tribe along the railway line. The Ogaden Somalis were punished in 1901 for the assassination of the Sub-Commissioner, Mr. Jenner, in November, 1900. A patrol was despatched into Sotik in 1906 and a force visited Marakwet in 1911. Patrols visited Northern Jubaland in 1912 and 1914. Disturbances broke out among the Giriama tribe towards the end of 1914, which necessitated a punitive expedition. There were two

campaigns in Turkana, in 1915 and 1917, and the murder of Mr. Elliott at Serenli by the Aulihan Somalis led to punitive measures in Jubaland in 1916 and 1917.

Unofficial members first sat on the Legislative Council in 1907. Such members were nominated by the Governor until 1919 when the principle of elective representation of Europeans was recognized. The first elections were held in February, 1920. In 1923 the principle of elective representation was extended on a basis of communal franchise to the Indian and Arab Communities. Unofficial members first sat on Executive Council in 1920.

By the Kenya Annexation Order in Council, 1920, the territories outside the mainland dominions of the Sultan of Zanzibar were recognized as a Colony. This Order in Council came into operation on the 23rd July, 1920. The Sultan's mainland dominions are now styled the Protectorate of Kenya, whilst the remaining territory is known as the Colony of Kenya. On the 29th June, 1925, in pursuance of a treaty between the United Kingdom and Italy signed at London on the 15th July, 1924, the Province of Jubaland was ceded to Italy. By the Kenya Colony and Protectorate (Boundaries) Order in Council, 1926, an area on the west of Lake Rudolf and north of the River Turkwel, stretching from Mount Elgon to Mount Zulia on the boundary of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, which had formerly formed part of the Uganda Protectorate, was included in Kenya.

The Uganda Railway, which had been operated from the date of its construction as a State Railway under the Government of the East Africa Protectorate, was constituted in April, 1921, as a separate financial entity under the control of a Central Railway Council. In February, 1926, under the provisions of the Kenya and Uganda (Transport) Order in Council, 1925, the Office of High Commissioner for Transport was established. The High Commissioner is the Officer Administering the Government of Kenya. He has control of the transport services owned, controlled, or managed by the Governments of Kenya or Uganda, including railways, ports, wharves, and steamships. The Administration is now known as the Kenya and Uganda Railways and Harbours Services. An Inter-Colonial Railway Advisory Council and a Harbour Advisory Board have been constituted.

Languages.

The principal African language in use in Kenya is Swahili, a language evolved from Arab contact with Bantu tribes, which has become a medium of conversation with and between Africans of different tribes not only in Kenya but over a wide area in East and Central Africa. There are numerous native languages of local importance. Among these are :—

Hamitic Languages—Somali, Galla, and Boran.

Lowland Bantu Languages—Nyika (including Giriama) Rabai, Ribe, Jibana, Chonyi, Kauma, Kambe, Digo, Durama, and Pokomo.

Highland Bantu Languages—Kamba, Kikuyu, Embu, Chuku, and Meru.

Lakeland Bantu Languages—Bantu Kavirondo and Kisii.

Nilotic Languages—Masai, Samburu, Turkana, and Nilotic Kavirondo.

Nilotic-Hamitic Languages—Nandi, Lumbwa, Kamasia, Elgeyo, Suk, Elgoni, and Marakwet.

Currency.

The currency originally consisted of the Indian rupee as the standard coin, with smaller local coins and notes of higher denominations, all expressed in terms of the rupee; the British sovereign was also legal tender at Rs.15. The exchange value of the rupee, after being maintained for many years by the Government of India at 1s. 4d., began to rise in 1917, and early in 1920 reached 2s. 9d. It was then decided to fix the rate in the East Africa Protectorate, the Uganda Protectorate, and the Tanganyika Territory at 2s. sterling to the rupee, and to issue a new currency in local rupee coin and notes, but subsequently it was decided that the new coinage should be expressed in terms of florins, instead of rupees, the 50 cent piece being alternatively termed a shilling. Some rupee notes were introduced but no rupee coins. Later the shilling was made the standard coin instead of the florin, and arrangements were made to withdraw the Indian rupee, which was demonetized from July, 1921, from circulation. The nickel-bronze coins (1, 5 and 10 cents of a rupee) have been withdrawn from circulation, and new copper-bronze coins (cents of a shilling) have been introduced.

The old Local Board of Currency Commissioners has been abolished, and the currency of the Colony and Protectorate is now in the hands of the East Africa Currency Board in London, represented locally by the Treasurer.

Weights and Measures.

The weights and measures in use in the Colony are the same as those used in Great Britain.

I.—GENERAL.

From the 22nd January until the 25th August, 1927, the Government of the Colony and Protectorate was administered by Sir Edward Denham, K.B.E., C.M.G., in the absence of Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Edward Grigg, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., D.S.O., M.C., who was engaged in the discussion of certain important questions in England, in representing Kenya at the Colonial Office Conference, and in the investigation of other matters of interest to this country in the Union of South Africa and in Rhodesia.

The Legislative Council held four sessions and sat on 23 days during the course of the year. The Council was dissolved, preparatory to the triennial general election, on the 21st January, 1927. The elections were held during January and February, with the following returns :—

Nairobi North, Captain H. F. Ward.*

Nairobi South, Captain H. E. Schwartze.*

Mombasa, G. G. Atkinson.

Coast, Major R. W. B. Robertson-Eustace, D.S.O.*

Lake, Conway Harvey.*

Rift Valley, Lord Delamere.*

Plateau North, Lieut.-Colonel J. G. Kirkwood, C.M.G., D.S.O.

Plateau South, T. J. O'Shea.*

Kenya, Capt. E. M. V. Kenealy.*

Ukamba, Lieut.-Colonel Lord Francis Scott, D.S.O.*

Kikuyu, Lieut.-Colonel C. G. Durham, D.S.O.

Indian Electoral Area, A. H. Malik (four vacancies).

Arab Electoral Area, Hamed Mohamed bin Issa.*

The constitution of the Council provided for the election of five Indian Elected Members, and provided further that until such Indian Elected Members had been elected there should be five Nominated Indian Unofficial Members. The return of one Indian Elected Member with four vacancies led to the promulgation of Additional Royal Instructions dated the 28th March, 1927, providing that for a period of not more than one year from the date of those Instructions any vacancies so arising might be filled by the appointment of Nominated Indian Unofficial Members from the Indian community in general. At the close of that period, such nominations were only to be made from among those persons whose names were entered on the register of voters for the election of Indian Elected Members.

Since January, 1924, when rules were first introduced enabling qualified members of the Indian community to register as voters for the election of Indian Elected Members, a small number only of qualified Indian residents had entered their names on the roll. The Indian register published in June, 1926, upon which the elections were held in January, 1927, contained some 360 names only. The object of the Additional Royal Instructions was to afford opportunity to the Indian community to make the register of voters representative of the community during 1927 with a view to an election to fill the vacancies being held early in 1928. The register of voters for the Indian Electoral Area published in 1927 contained 3,700 names. Four Nominated Indian Unofficial Members were appointed in July, 1927, and held their seats until the appointments were terminated on the 31st January, 1928. An election to fill these seats was held on the 3rd March, 1928, but no candidates were nominated.

* An Elected Member of the previous Council.

In July, the appointment of a Commission by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to visit the East African Dependencies was announced. The terms of reference were as follows :—

1. To make recommendations as to whether, either by federation or some other form of closer union, more effective co-operation between the different Governments in Central and Eastern Africa may be secured, more particularly in regard to the development of transport and communications, customs tariffs and customs administration, scientific research, and defence.

2. To consider which territories could either now or at some future time be brought within any such closer union, and, in particular, how best to give effect to Article 10 of the Mandate for Tanganyika Territory, which provides that the mandatory may constitute the Territory into a customs, fiscal and administrative union or federation with the adjacent territories under its own sovereignty or control, provided always that the measures adopted to that end do not infringe the provisions of the Mandate.

3. To make recommendations in regard to possible changes in the powers and composition of the various Legislative Councils of the several territories (a) as the result of the establishment of any Federal Council or other common authority ; (b) so as to associate more closely in the responsibilities and trusteeship of Government the immigrant communities domiciled in the country ; and (c) so as ultimately to secure more direct representation of native interests in accordance with (4) below.

4. To suggest how the Dual Policy recommended by the Conference of East African Governors (i.e., the complementary development of native and non-native communities) can best be progressively applied in the political as well as the economic sphere.

5. To make recommendations as to what improvements may be required in internal communications between the various territories so as to facilitate the working of federation of closer union.

6. To report more particularly on the financial aspects of any proposals which they may make under any of the above headings.

The Commission was constituted as follows :—

Rt. Hon. Sir Edward Hilton Young, Bart., P.C., G.B.E.,
D.S.O., D.S.C., M.P. (Chairman).

Sir Reginald Mant, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.

Sir George Schuster, K.C.M.G., C.B.E., M.C.

Mr. J. H. Oldham, M.A.

Mr. H. F. Downie,

Colonel C. W. G. Walker, D.S.O. } Secretaries.

During the month of August delegates from Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika, Northern Rhodesia, and Southern Rhodesia attended the third East African Non-official Conference at Nairobi. The principal subject of discussion was its attitude towards the appointment of the Hilton Young Commission.

The main conclusions reached are to be gathered from the following Conference Resolutions :—

“ That this Conference unanimously welcomes the appointment of the Hilton Young Commission to enquire into the question of Federation with regard to Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika and hopes its labours will result in a scheme which will provide adequate safeguards for the state of civilisation which has been reached and which will prove acceptable to our peoples of these three Territories.

“ This Conference is of opinion that federation without agreement would be impracticable.

“ That this Conference is of opinion that any division of Northern Rhodesia for the purpose of an amalgamation of North-Eastern Rhodesia with Nyasaland would be disastrous to the cause of civilisation in Central and Eastern Africa.”

The Conference also expressed its desire for constitutional change in the direction of unofficial majorities in the several Legislative Councils as soon as local conditions should justify such a course. In the opinion of the Conference such “ justification exists to-day in Kenya.”

A further resolution affirmed the principle that the promotion of civilisation in the territories concerned could only be effectively secured by a large increase in European settlement.

The Local Government Commission appointed in 1926 under the Chairmanship of Mr. Justice Feetham completed its enquiries early in the year. Preliminary steps were taken with a view to carrying out the recommendations of the Commission.

Following upon the delimitation of the Native Reserves in 1926, demarcation was begun during 1927. A resolution was adopted in the Legislative Council on the 11th March, 1927, in the following terms :—

“ That in view of the fact that the Native Reserve Boundaries have now been demarcated and gazetted, this Honourable Council is of the opinion that no change should be made in the boundaries as so gazetted without prior reference to this House.”

As a result of discussions undertaken by Sir Edward Grigg in England, an agreement was signed on the 13th April between representatives of the Railway and the Wharfage Companies relative to the methods of working of the Mombasa Port. In view

of the acceptance of a revised system of Port control, Lord Inchcape agreed to the cancellation of the lease of Mbaraki, which thus became part of the general Port facilities.

In February, the first aerial mail service was inaugurated between Kenya, Uganda, the Sudan, and Egypt and thence to England by the arrival at Kisumu on the 12th February of a sea-plane piloted by Captain Gladstone. Altogether two English air mails were despatched and four received before accidents necessitated the suspension of this experimental air service.

Sir Sefton Brancker, Director of Civil Aviation, visited Kenya in March, and in April a combined Royal Air Force and South Africa Air Force flight met in Nairobi.

The year was a satisfactory one financially, the Colonial surplus increasing from £362,265 at the end of 1926 to £693,260 at the end of 1927. The Estimates for 1927 provided for a tax to be levied on the European and Indian communities sufficient to cover the cost respectively of European and Indian education services, in the form of a consumption tax on wines and spirits, accompanied by a poll cess of thirty shillings per head for the European and twenty shillings per head for the Asiatic adult male population.

Progress was made in the construction of the main railway line extension with Uganda, which was handed over for open line working complete as far as Mbulamuti at the beginning of 1928. The Nyeri branch line was completed as far as Naro Moru in November and construction was begun of a branch line to Mbale and Soroti in Uganda.

No census of the non-native population was taken during 1927. No census has yet been taken of the African population. A fairly accurate count is made annually for taxation purposes but the number of children can only be estimated roughly and the return of African population is, therefore, a rough estimate only.

The following figures show the 1921 and 1926 census returns for non-natives and the estimates of the native population at the end of 1921 and 1927 :—

		1921 Census.	1926 Census.	Increase per cent.
Europeans ... ..	...	9,651	12,529	30
Asiatics (excluding Arabs) ...	...	25,880	30,583	18
Arabs ... ..	...	10,102	10,557	4½
<hr/>				
		Estimate 1921.	Estimate 1927.	
Africans ... ..	...	2,348,788	2,793,963	24*
Totals ... ..	...	2,394,421	2,847,632	24*

* The African population showed a decrease in 1925 owing to the cession of Jubaland to Italy. In calculating the percentage of increase, the estimated African population of Jubaland at the end of 1921 (97,728) has been deducted from the 1921 estimate.

Measures for the Improvement of Native Conditions during 1927.

The outstanding feature of the development of native communities during the year has been a steadily increasing realisation by Local Native Councils, especially among the more progressive tribes, of their duties and responsibilities both to the people and Government, and the keen desire they have shown for social and economic development.

The Councils are also fulfilling a useful purpose by forming a constitutional means of ventilating matters upon which the people desire explanation and discussion.

The increasing native demand for education is reflected in the Estimates of the majority of Local Native Councils which have voted during the current year £5,650 for educational purposes.

Funds have also been voted for a variety of other purposes among which may be mentioned medical services, roads and bridges, buildings, water supplies, and afforestation.

Communications have improved in all Provinces, notably in Kikuyu, where the desire for more and better roads has resulted in marked development and led to the opening of many native-owned shops and flour mills. In Nyanza Province the construction of several new roads has resulted in motor communication with all parts of the Province being now feasible.

The main tracks in the Northern Frontier Province have been extended in various directions, thus enabling use to be made of motor transport, and producing a remarkable increase in commercial motor traffic. This is of special significance in view of the fact that the difficulty of communications in the Province has been one of the main handicaps to progress in the past.

Water supply has received special attention in Masai and Ukamba. In the former a measure of success has attended preliminary experiments in boring, and native appreciation of the steps taken is reflected in the fact that the Masai Local Native Council has voted £1,000 for further bores in 1928. This may prove that boring is the solution of the water supply problem in this Province, though it is as yet too early to prophesy such a consummation with any degree of confidence.

In Ukamba improvements to the water supplies have taken the form of dam construction, which has proved most successful and has been greeted with enthusiasm by the natives. At Migwani in the Kitui District, for instance, where formerly there was no water within 15 miles, there is now a large dam over three acres in extent, in parts more than six feet in depth, providing an ample water supply.

Tree planting has proceeded with vigour. In Kikuyu several thousands of tree seedlings have been distributed. In Nyanza a scheme of afforestation with Local Native Council funds was carried out, and nurseries and small plantations were started. Afforestation was continued in the Machakos Native Reserve. The total

area now planted is 1,264 acres, of which 330 were planted during 1927.

The main feature of medical services rendered to the natives has been a campaign by the Medical Department against intestinal worms—more particularly hook-worm—in the Coast Province. The method adopted has been primarily directed towards prevention, and has met with marked success. It is estimated that eighty per cent. of the people are infected with this disease.

The Local Native Councils have shown their appreciation of the necessity for medical aid among the people by voting considerable sums to supplement the amounts provided from public funds for medical services during the year.

Agricultural development has steadily progressed, and in parts of the country cultivation has become so intense as to render the impoverishment of the soil likely, unless steps are taken to ensure a proper rotation of crops or the use of manures.

A Committee was appointed by the Governor to consider and advise as to the lines to be pursued for the better organization of Agricultural Education for Africans, and the funds from which such assistance should be given. This Committee has submitted a Report which is under consideration by Government.

During the year under review no legislation of great importance affecting natives was enacted other than an amendment to the Native Liquor Ordinance designed to secure more effective control of the manufacture, sale and transport of native liquor in townships, on farms, and in the Coast Province, in certain areas of which the extent of intoxication among the native population was such as to demand special methods of prevention.

II.—FINANCE.

The following table shows the revenue and expenditure totals for the five years ended 31st December, 1927 :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Revenue.</i>			<i>Expenditure.</i>
	£			£
1923 	1,839,447			2,137,633
1924 	2,111,565			1,861,511
1925 	2,430,509			2,339,996
1926 	2,627,223			2,414,681
1927 	2,846,110			2,515,115

The following new methods of raising revenue were introduced for operation during the year 1927 :—

1. Spirits and Wines Consumption Tax, brought into operation from 6th November, 1926.

2. European Education Tax, 30s., brought into operation from 1st January, 1927.

3. Asiatic Education Tax, 20s., brought into operation from 1st January, 1927.

No special alterations were made in the rates of other forms of taxation.

Statement of Loan Position of Colony at 31st December, 1927.

(a) *Public Debt*.—During the year the Funded Public Debt of the Colony had increased from £8,500,000 to £10,000,000 by the floating of a loan of £5,000,000 which contained provision for the repayment of the £3,500,000 loan raised under Ordinance No. 29 of 1924.

The position at the end of the year was, therefore, that the Fund Public Debt consisted of two loans, viz. :—

£5,000,000—6 per cent. Loan of 1921.

£5,000,000—5 per cent. Loan of 1927.

The 1921 Loan, known as the " Kenya Government 6 per cent. Inscribed Stock, 1946-56 " was floated in London in November, 1921, at £95 per cent. The currency of the Loan is 35 years, but the Kenya Government have the option of redemption at par at any time after the 14th November, 1946, on giving six calendar months' notice.

This loan was fully expended at the 31st of December, 1927.

The 1927 Loan, known as the " Kenya Government 5 per cent. Inscribed Stock, 1948-56," was floated in London in November, 1927, at £99 10s. per cent. The currency of the loan is 30 years, but the Kenya Government have the option of redemption at par at any time after 15th of January, 1948, on giving six calendar months' notice.

The loan was raised for the purpose of redeeming the Imperial Government (free of interest for 5 years from 1924) Loan of £3,500,000, and for further Railway and Port Development.

The actual amount raised at the 31st of December, 1927, was £3,245,750.

(b) *Sinking Funds*.—In the case of both the 1921 and 1927 Loans the legislation provides that Sinking Fund contributions shall commence after the expiration of three years from the date of the first issue of the stock, and it is stated in the prospectus that the annual contribution will be not less than one pound per cent.

Contributions to the Sinking Fund established in connection with the 1921 loan are at present at the rate of 26s. per cent. per annum.

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities of the Colony and Protectorate
of Kenya on 31st December, 1927.**

<i>Liabilities.</i>			<i>Assets.</i>		
	£	s. cts.		£	s. cts.
Deposits	738,280	10 85	Investments...	109,953	0 40
Advances to Colony	3,209,509	7 72	Advances pending raising of Loans...	3,789,943	6 87
Drafts and Remit- tances	7,178	6 50	Advances	96,892	6 32
Surplus of Assets over Liabilities ...	693,260	3 71	Unallocated Stores...	83,407	14 35
			Loans to Local Bodies	4,790	19 18
			Cash	563,241	1 66
	<hr/>			<hr/>	
	£4,648,228	8 78		£4,648,228	8 78
	<hr/>			<hr/>	

III.—PRODUCTION.

During the year 1927 the rainfall was on the whole below the average and its incidence was irregular, so that some crops suffered from lack of rain at important times. Of the main crops, the yield of coffee, which showed every promise of being above the average per acre, revealed a substantial shortfall, and expectations were not realised, although the total quantity produced was in excess of that of any previous year. The yields of maize which were harvested from the 1926 plantings were slightly above average despite the too heavy rainfall experienced in most districts. The 1927 crop on the other hand is expected to be below average, the rainfall being too light and the incidence of stalk-borer, particularly in the Nakuru District, having caused some loss.

Wheat planted in 1927 was up to average over the country as a whole.

Owing to the drought which was felt generally over the whole country, Native Reserves produced little surplus.

There was a strong movement directed towards the cheapening of fuel oils for agricultural purposes, and legislation was introduced early in 1928 to provide for a rebate in respect of paraffin used for agricultural purposes.

A Conference of Stock Owners was held in February at which the opinion was expressed that early steps must be taken to strengthen the measures previously in operation as a protection against stock diseases. Recommendations made by the Select Committee of the Legislative Council on the Estimates for 1928 aimed at the introduction of legislation providing for compulsory fencing and dipping in certain areas, and steps are being taken to establish a Land Bank from which it is hoped, among other things, to make advances in respect of such work.

An Eastern African Agricultural Show was held in Nairobi in July and August.

The total value of agricultural exports, the produce of Kenya, in 1927 was £2,731,794, an increase of £482,073, as compared with the previous year. The tonnage was 138,412 tons in 1927 against 85,444 tons in 1926.

Main Crops.

On 31st July, 1927, an agricultural census showed the total area under crops in European areas to be 438,035 acres, and the total area under cultivation to be 512,543 acres. For comparative purposes figures for the previous year are given and the percentages of increase and decrease are shown.

<i>Crop.</i>				<i>1927. Acres.</i>	<i>1926. Acres.</i>	<i>Increase per cent.</i>	<i>Decrease per cent.</i>
Maize	...	...	...	192,592	193,187	—	0·3
Wheat	...	...	...	63,036	43,765	48·4	—
Barley	...	...	...	4,093	2,644	54·8	—
Coffee	...	...	...	74,662	68,950	8·14	—
Sisal	...	...	...	71,213	60,197	18·30	—
Tea	...	...	...	3,156	1,689	86·09	—
Coconuts	...	...	...	8,113	8,766	—	7·4
Sugar Cane	...	...	...	6,811	6,747	1·00	—
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	17,194	18,525	—	7·2
Total acreage of crops grown				442,770	404,470	9·5	—
Less Catch Crops				4,735	3,427	38·1	—
Net area under crops				438,035	401,043	9·2	—

Maize.—The season's figures reveal a decrease of 595 acres in the area planted as compared with the acreage in 1926.

The average yield of maize over the whole country was 7.39 bags per acre.

The following table shows the acreages and yields of maize in past years.

<i>Year.</i>		<i>Acreage Harvested. Acres.</i>	<i>Actual Production. Bags.</i>	<i>Bags per Acre</i>
1922-1923	...	74,747	518,877	6·23
1923-1924	...	108,556	833,640	7·68
1924-1925	...	129,647	893,108	6·89
1925-1926	...	155,751	826,614	5·95
1926-1927	...	177,987	1,314,643	7·39

Wheat.—The area planted as at 31st July, 1927, was 65,036 acres, a very significant increase as compared with the previous year. The acreage harvested in each year and the production during the past five years are as follows:—

<i>Year.</i>				<i>Acreage Harvested. Acres.</i>	<i>Annual Production. Bags.</i>
1922-23	...	...	...	15,158	35,793
1923-24	...	...	...	19,599	55,920
1924-25	...	...	...	23,996	61,067
1925-26	...	...	...	30,627	80,069
1926-27	...	...	...	46,601	120,569

Barley.—Interest is increasing in this crop. It is expected that in the future barley will become one of the main crops grown, particularly as mixed farming advances. In 1927, 4,093 acres of barley were planted as against 2,644 acres in 1926.

Coffee.—The season has been droughty but the quantity of coffee exported was 70,000 cwt. more than in 1926. The export value shows a corresponding increase from £747,453 in 1926 to £1,140,549 in 1927. The total area under coffee is 74,562 acres or 8 per cent. more than in 1926, and the acreage in bearing is now 53,800 or approximately 8,000 more than in 1926. The estimate of production in July, 1927, was 213,000 cwt. and 209,843 cwt. were exported equivalent in value to 42 per cent. of the Colony's total agricultural exports. There are 749 coffee planters in the Colony.

Sisal.—The output of sisal was much increased but, owing to the fall in prices, the value of fibre exported in 1927 was only £468,974 as against £579,499 in 1926. The total area planted as at 31st July, 1927, was 71,213 acres, of which 40,751 acres were over three years old and therefore ready for cutting. The increase in area for 1927 is 11,016 acres or 18.30 per cent. over the previous year.

This industry is energetically pursuing investigations into methods and systems which will tend to decrease working costs and increase acre out-turn.

Coconuts.—There was a decrease in the export of Copra from 22,085 cwt., valued at £25,765 in 1926 to 14,725 cwt., valued at £14,070 in 1927. The time is not far distant when most, if not all, the Colony's productions will be absorbed locally.

Sugar Cane.—Only a small increase is recorded in the area planted under cane, which is now 6,811 acres. The production of sugar is, however, increasing and export of 25,320 cwt. took place during the year. Considerable success has attended the working of sugar estates and mills during the past few years.

Native Agriculture.

As in previous years, the main functions of the Agricultural Officers of the Department of Agriculture have been to give advice to Administrative Officers and instruction in the Agricultural Schools at the Scott Agricultural Laboratories and at Bukura. It has been possible, owing to a larger staff being available, to provide for more direct instruction in the Reserves, both by means of native instructors, demonstration plots, and meetings addressed by officers.

Mass issues of seed and of pure bred poultry were made and instruction was given in the preparation of hides, ghee, and beeswax.

At the Native Agricultural Schools the average number under training was 83: at the Scott Laboratories 38, and at Bukura 45. No pupils completed the course at the Scott Laboratories owing to the course having been lengthened from two to three years. Nine boys finished the training at Bukura and are to be engaged as instructors, and four of the most promising have been kept on for a further year's more advanced course.

Cotton.—The 1926-1927 crop, owing chiefly to adverse weather conditions, was late and small. About 1,045,000 lb. of seed cotton were purchased in Kavirondo as compared with 2,484,000 lb. in the previous season.

The low prices paid for cotton in the previous year did not encourage further plantings but, as a result of special efforts made by the Agricultural Department and the Administration, some 20,000 acres were planted by the end of July. Weather conditions were adverse, however, in the cotton area, with the result that in spite of the larger acreage the crop is not expected to be much greater than that of the previous year.

Simsim.—Good crops of Simsim have been secured on the coast and as a long rain crop in Nyanza. The short rain crops there have suffered and yields will be small. The crop is a popular one in areas suited to it and prices ranged from 20s. to 30s. per 100 lb. Seed was issued in the coast area and was eagerly sought after. The crop is well suited to native needs and well adapted to certain areas. Total exports during the year amounted to 66,580 cwt.

Groundnuts.—Although a suitable crop in many areas, the cultivation of groundnuts does not appeal to the native. Good yields have been obtained at many of the demonstration shambas in the country and issues of seed were made in Central Kavirondo and the coast. Harvesting and shelling is often carelessly done and the resulting seed is poor. There were 24,960 cwt. valued at £22,564 exported during the year.

Wheat.—With the further assurance, provided by the successful growth of Kenya Governor by Europeans, that the crop is not likely to succumb to rust attacks, the growth of wheat has been encouraged in suitable areas, more particularly in the Kikuyu Province. Signs are not wanting that as the crop becomes better known it may replace to a considerable extent maize and mtama in the short rain season in certain districts. Such replacement cannot fail to have a good effect on the fertility of the land, the diet, nutrition, and general health of the native and eventually the export trade of the country. A number of excellent crops have been grown by natives.

The estimated value of agricultural exports of native origin for the last five years is as follows:—

	1923. £	1924. £	1925. £	1926. £	1927. £
Animals	10,000	20,000	16,000	11,000	12,000
Copra and Coconuts ...	10,280	35,000	28,000	20,600	12,000
Cotton	—	11,860	41,000	32,750	15,030
Groundnuts	24,000	26,000	19,000	31,000	22,500
Maize	120,000	130,000	100,000	70,000	75,000
Milletts	4,000	300	865	2,750	3,350
Pulse	12,000	15,000	16,800	20,400	19,900
Simsim	22,000	84,000	65,000	76,500	67,350
Hides	60,000	121,000	210,000	140,000	160,000
Skins	3,000	30,000	50,000	51,000	67,000
Oil-Simsim	2,400	2,200	3,000	5,500	3,550
Potatoes	3,000	4,000	4,000	7,250	7,500
Miscellaneous	1,000	1,000	1,000	2,000	2,600
	£271,680	£480,360	£564,665	£470,750	£497,780

This statement does not, however, give any indication as to the total agricultural output from native areas. As instances of this the following illustrations may be cited.

54,000 bags of native maize were graded in 1927 but, in addition, 214,300 bags of native maize were shipped to East Coast ports ungraded.

From certain stations on the new line of rail from Thika to Nyeri, at which the collections of produce are practically wholly of native origin, no fewer than 209,000 bags of maize were railed during the year. In addition, from Nyanza over 100,000 bags of maize were sent out either as meal or as grain.

The native maize crop comes in, in part, during the time when there is a large demand for maize meal in this Colony and Uganda, so that by far the greater part of the total crop is consumed locally. The export figures of native maize, therefore, are not comparable with the total sales. This is also true of simsim, groundnuts, and copra. A very much greater local use is being made of these commodities.

Live-stock Industry.

The following table shows the number of live-stock owned by Europeans over a five-year period.

	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
Cattle Total :	190,140	211,381	216,589	213,423	215,650
(a) Breeding Stock ...	104,631	110,855	110,547	105,556	107,434
(b) Oxen	85,509	100,526	106,042	107,867	108,213
Horses	1,454	1,642	1,846	1,844	2,137
Mules	1,093	985	922	780	719
Donkeys	1,260	1,213	1,336	931	1,046
Sheep (wool-bearing) ...	112,046	133,916	140,725	162,848	209,299
Sheep (native)	35,014	32,132	38,071	45,057	32,972
Goats	6,258	4,618	5,372	4,454	3,697
Pigs	12,120	10,608	8,564	9,125	12,954
Poultry	38,685	38,910	31,150	39,728	43,988

There was an increase in 1927 of 1.04 per cent. in the total number of cattle as compared with 1926. The country is well suited to stock and dairy farming, but it has become clear that without some drastic alteration of conditions the developments of stock raising by Europeans will be greatly hampered. It is hoped that the introduction of fencing and dipping on a large scale such as is contemplated under legislation will provide a measure of protection and a stimulus to the industry.

There has been a large increase in wool-bearing sheep amounting to 28.52 per cent. The value of wool exported in 1926 was £62,450 and in 1927 was £64,561.

The business of pig breeding and feeding is on the increase.

Poultry.—This branch is becoming more popular and is dependent on the quality and cheapness of the supplies of feeding stuffs. In dry and warm districts under careful managements poultry thrives.

The following table gives the quantities of certain animal products sold by Europeans during the last five years.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Milk.</i>	<i>Cream.</i>	<i>Butter.</i>	<i>Cheese.</i>	<i>Ghee.</i>	<i>Wool.</i>
	<i>Galls.</i>	<i>Galls.</i>	<i>lb.</i>	<i>lb.</i>	<i>lb.</i>	<i>lb.</i>
1926-1927 ...	617,747	92,640	216,863	148,305	124,057	632,088
1925-1926 ...	395,031	72,693	291,894	144,070	115,815	670,752
1924-1925 ...	371,692	85,557	303,085	92,994	108,153	461,588
1923-1924 ...	372,104	107,669	252,990	93,248	112,815	427,266
1922-1923 ...	351,920	43,352	246,544	145,452	97,439	445,024

It will be noted that there is a very large increase in the amount of fresh milk sold with, however, a considerable reduction in the quantity of butter produced.

It is calculated that the production of the primary product—milk—has increased from 1,729,470 gallons in 1925-1926 to 2,257,974 gallons in 1926-1927 or 30.5 per cent. This very large increase is the more remarkable since the number of dairy cattle increased by less than 2 per cent. It may be attributed partly to the good rainfall in 1926 affording plentiful grazing in the latter part of that year, and the corresponding maintenance of the milk supply through the dry season, but more particularly to improved methods of production and greater attention on the part of the stock-owner to the care and management of the herds.

The two most noteworthy points in connection with agricultural production during the past year are the increase in the production of wheat which was of sufficient quantity to satisfy the local demand, and which under normal conditions is likely to become an export in 1928, and the quantity of fair quality maize produced in native reserves. Though there are no exact records of these quantities, undoubtedly there has been a very considerable increase.

Future Prospects.—Coffee and sisal are expected to show a considerable annual increase in export during the next few years, apart from the results of increased planting, owing to the large area of plantings of recent years coming into bearing.

The rapid rate of increase in the quantity of maize produced in European areas during the past few years is not expected to be maintained in view of the number of farmers who are planting wheat on old maize lands, and the need for maintenance and improvement of soil fertility by rotation of crops. Though the area under maize is not expected to increase at the same rate as in the past the areas of land still to be brought under cultivation are large and acre yields may be expected to show a gradual increase.

Competition in the world markets as an export trade develops, will necessitate further attention being paid to the yield of wheat per acre and to more intensive methods of cultivation. This and the production of more suitable wheats by the Plant Breeding staff, with the probable increase of area under the crop, will result in a much increased production as the effects of these influences are felt.

There is an increasing tendency to complete the early stages of manufacture in the country noticeably in the case of the oil producing crops, e.g., simsim, which is being crushed locally, and in the case of the coconut to complete the process by the manufacture and local consumption of soap.

Directions in which openings occur for the beneficial use of capital are varied; the small investor may profitably undertake mixed farming in many areas, coffee calls for investment on a more extensive scale, whilst larger concerns operate plantation crops such as sisal and sugar.

A schedule showing the quantity and value of the main agricultural exports yearly during the last five years is attached as an Appendix to this Report.

Forestry.

Steady progress was made in exploitation, afforestation and forest investigation during the year.

Timber sales increased from 1,316,566 cubic feet in 1926 to 1,566,400 cubic feet in 1927.

Firewood sales increased from 5,207,403 cubic feet in 1926 to 8,108,890 in 1927; this latter figure is more than double that sold in the year 1925.

The Kenya and Uganda Railways and Harbours used 6,250,000 cubic feet of fuel from Forest Reserves out of a total of 13,250,000 cubic feet used by them during the year.

697,157 poles and bamboos were sold compared with 605,277 in the previous year.

The number of trees raised in Forest Department Nurseries was increased from 4,000,000 to 5,500,000 and of these 548,672 were sold, an increase of 76,428 over the previous year.

1,422 lbs. of seed were sold during the year.

The year was a difficult one for planting operations and of a total area planted of 3,253 acres only 2,959 were sufficiently established to be counted as plantations at the end of the year.

The plantations established by the Department during the year consisted of 1,150 acres of timber species, 1,407 acres of fuel, and 402 acres of mangroves.

The produce from these plantations will fully cover the amounts of produce exploited during the year.

The total area of the Forest Reserves at the end of the year was 2,552,240 acres which, as the result of investigations carried on during the year 1927 and previous years, is classified as follows :—

	<i>Acres.</i>
Merchantable timber area	749,000
Fuel and unmerchantable timber area ...	772,620
Bamboo	353,350
Moorland, rock, grass, and snow	677,670

Enumeration surveys on a small scale were proceeded with, three areas being enumerated during the year. From the figures at present collected the following estimates of timber were made :—

	<i>Million cubic feet.</i>
Conifers, merchantable timber	651
Broad-leaved, merchantable timber	292
Broad-leaved, unprofitable or inaccessible	306
Total	1,249

Exports.

	<i>1927.</i>		<i>Average for last five years.</i>	
	<i>Cubic feet or No.</i>	<i>Value £</i>	<i>Cubic feet or No.</i>	<i>Value £</i>
Cedar	13,548	5,400	46,682	14,779
Other Timber	48,293	9,119	46,892	4,175
Mangrove Poles	373,548	4,830	518,937	6,537
Mangrove Bark	51 tons.	306	308 tons.	1,848
Gum Copal	15 tons.	30	9 tons.	20

It will be noticed that there was a considerable drop in the export of pencil cedar, which was due chiefly to local difficulties. This trade is being fostered and steps will be taken to assist and increase it as soon as enumerations and working plans can be prepared.

Two officers were appointed for working plan preparation. It is proposed that they should pay particular attention to the cedar forests with a view to encouraging the use of East African Pencil Cedar for the manufacture of pencils.

The quantity of timber imported decreased. Taking one-third of the imports for Kenya and Uganda as destined for Kenya, 181,718 cubic feet valued at £37,144 were imported, compared with 282,981 cubic feet valued at £59,929 in 1926.

The total cash revenue collected by the Forest Department was £42,101, an increase of £5,163 over the figure for 1926, and the total expenditure was £32,751, an increase of £2,896 on 1926 expenditure.

Fisheries.

It is known that a great variety of fish is prevalent in the sea waters on the coast of Kenya. Some species are caught in large numbers by the primitive methods at present in vogue.

At present about 40,000 lbs. of fish, valued at £3,900, are caught. There are 212 boats, 442 canoes, 175 fish traps, and 1,755 persons employed in fishing.

The potentialities will be further investigated in 1928, when arrangements for a preliminary survey of the sea fisheries have been concluded.

A very considerable fishing industry is also carried on along the shores of Lake Victoria, both by Africans and Indians, and in several of the Lake shore locations the natives depend very largely on fish for their food owing to the uncertainty of the rains.

The methods employed by the natives are very varied and include drag nets, weirs, traps, harpoons, long lines, and, to a very small extent, fishing rods.

Most of the fish caught by the natives is not eaten fresh, but dried, and large quantities are carried up by those dwelling on the Lake shore to markets in the hinterland and exchanged there for grain.

More modern methods of fishing by means of imported nets are employed by Indians at various fishing stations in the Kavirondo Gulf.

There are three Indian fishing villages in the Gulf, at Seme, Asembo, and Nanga. The last is only three miles south of Kisumu and is the only one near enough to supply fish for the Nairobi market.

All persons fishing for sale or barter are required to register yearly. The fee is 300s. per annum for persons other than natives of Africa.

As it was feared that the fishing industry was declining it was decided to bring in an expert to make a survey of the Lake, and in September, 1927, Mr. Michael Graham, of the Home Fishery Department, arrived, and was still investigating the problem at the end of the year, assisted by Captain R. E. Dent, of the Game Department, and Mr. E. B. Worthington.

Mines.

Twenty prospecting licences were issued and four claims registered during the year. Gold to the value of £2,302 was exported, representing the work of holders of 77 claims.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.**General.**

Kenya and Uganda being one administrative unit for purposes of Customs, complete freedom of trade between the territories exists. For this reason and on account of the very intimate trade relations of the two countries, a detailed examination of the external trade of Kenya alone is a matter of considerable difficulty, particularly in view of the fact that virtually the whole of the imports and exports of both Dependencies pass through Mombasa, the principal port in Kenya. In addition, produce originating in Tanganyika Territory amounting in value to £661,615 was transported through Kenya and shipped at Mombasa during the year.

Since 1st January, 1923, the movement, without the imposition of duty in the country of consumption, of goods, the growth, produce or manufacture of Kenya, Uganda, or Tanganyika Territory has been allowed. Following co-ordination of the Customs laws of the three territories, barriers to inter-territorial trade have been further lowered by a tripartite agreement permitting the free interchange of imported goods, the Customs duty involved being credited to the consuming territory by inter-departmental entry. The advantages to trade consequent upon this agreement have already been amply demonstrated as apart from obviating the necessity for double payment of duty, merchants are now enabled freely to transfer their stocks to meet seasonal requirements in any of the three territories. In this manner the dangers of over-stocking in a particular area are rendered considerably less serious and the whole basis of trading in imported goods in Eastern Africa is improved accordingly.

The net amount of duty collected in Kenya and Uganda on behalf of Tanganyika Territory from the 1st August, the date of inception of the new agreement, to 31st December, 1927, amounted to £33,933, a sum of £2,869 being credited by the Tanganyika Territory Government to the Governments of Kenya and Uganda in respect of traffic in the reverse direction during the same period.

The Customs tariff remained unaltered during the year under review, the net yield from Customs duties being £1,176,077, as compared with £1,150,593 collected during 1926. Of this total amount, £828,091 accrued to Kenya in 1927, as against £737,657 in the previous year.

Trading conditions in Kenya and Uganda during 1927 were unfavourable owing to the decreased purchasing power of the native

population, due in a large degree to the disappointing yield from the 1926-7 cotton crop. In the early part of the year the position occasioned some anxiety, but despite severe losses to merchants engaged in the native trade and particularly to importers allowing long credit terms, the markets as a whole have proved surprisingly resilient, and a gradual recovery attended by absorption of accumulated stocks has taken place. This process was undoubtedly assisted by the extension of the "Free trade area," which now includes Tanganyika Territory, and at the close of the year stocks of imported goods on hand in Kenya and Uganda were relatively small.

So far as the immediate future is concerned, the rapid development of the territories, not only as regards the area being brought under cultivation, but also in connection with local handling and transportation, trading and marketing, afford reasonable anticipation that if crop conditions are not definitely unfavourable, a marked increase in the external trade of the territories will be recorded.

The total volume of import, export and re-export trade, including importations on Government account, specie and transit and transshipment traffic was valued at £16,334,190, as compared with £17,208,483 in 1926, a decrease of 5 per cent. of this total. Goods imported and cleared for home consumption represented £7,697,180, as against £7,440,549 in 1926, an increase of £256,531, or 3.3 per cent. The value of domestic produce of the two territories exported during the year was £5,397,216, as against £6,010,386 in 1926, a decrease of £613,170; this contraction is more than accounted for by the fall of £1,364,372 in the value of cotton exported.

As regards the distribution of foreign trade between Kenya and Uganda, respectively, a close analysis shows that foreign trade goods imported into Uganda and cleared for home consumption in that territory amounted in value to £1,819,961, as compared with total clearances for home consumption in both territories of £7,697,180. The value of domestic produce originating in Kenya exported during the year was £3,086,916, indicating a very satisfactory increase of £672,575, or 27.8 per cent. over the value of Kenya exports in 1926.

Imports.

Of the total value of trade imports, the British Empire supplied 63.91 per cent. (Great Britain 38.34 per cent. and British Possessions 25.57 per cent.) as compared with 67.73 per cent. in 1926 (Great Britain 37.12 per cent. and British Possessions 30.61 per cent.). The decrease in the percentage value of goods originating in British Possessions is accounted for in part by a contraction in the value of goods imported from Tanganyika Territory for ultimate shipment overseas.

Trade in goods originating in the United States of America and Japan appears to have been stimulated by the inauguration of direct steamship services between these countries and Mombasa.

The following is a summary of the main items from the principal sources of supply, values in respect of the year 1926 being given in brackets :—

Great Britain.—Cotton Piece Goods £326,608 (£319,167), Machinery £223,999 (£206,406), Motor Vehicles and Bicycles £128,806 (£195,234), Galvanised Iron £126,115 (£119,090), Tobacco and Cigarettes £108,366 (£98,010), Provisions £101,239 (£97,353), Wines and Spirits £81,324 (£93,194), Cement £79,440 (£44,470), Wearing Apparel, etc., £62,121 (£67,637), and Tyres and Tubes £53,767 (£49,515).

India.—Jute Bags and Sacks £159,541 (£231,895), Cotton Piece Goods £125,608 (£133,123), Rice £78,458 (£73,214), Wheatmeal and Flour £58,196 (£57,929) and Tea £49,910 (£54,636).

Canada.—Motor Vehicles £119,887 (£53,676).

United States of America.—Motor Vehicles £275,178 (£301,920), and Cotton Piece Goods £76,737 (£52,923).

Holland.—Cotton Piece Goods £131,002 (£103,616), Blankets £110,673 (£107,827), and Tobacco, etc., £73,813 (£96,172).

Japan.—Cotton Piece Goods £245,783 (£241,369).

Cotton Piece Goods.—The value of trade imports of cotton piece goods of all descriptions amounted to £1,124,113, the total amount of duty collected thereon being £231,800 or 19.86 per cent. of total net duty collections. Transfers to Uganda were valued at £506,057. Imports during the year show a small increase, the average landed value per yard of imported cotton piece goods declining from 7.5d. in 1926 to 6.2d. in 1927. Blankets also show a continued decrease in value from 2s. 2.96d. to 1s. 11.25d.

Great Britain continues to be the main source of supply of the better qualities of cotton piece goods, Holland providing the bulk of imported cotton blankets, while unbleached cotton piece goods are supplied principally by Japan and the United States of America.

Vehicles.—1,585 motor cars valued at £275,010 and 1,282 motor lorries and tractors of a value of £256,655 were imported during the year, both classes showing satisfactory increases. Of these Great Britain supplied 235 motor cars and 86 motor lorries and tractors, Canada being the source of 501 motor cars and the same number of lorries and tractors. The United States of America continues to be the main source of supply although not to the same extent as in previous years.

The number of imported motor cycles decreased from 602 valued at £25,377 in 1926 to 493 valued at £20,603 in 1927. A very large share of the motor cycle trade is in the hands of British manufacturers.

Importations of bicycles showed a further large decrease, 4,852 being imported in 1927 as against 11,629 in 1926 and 23,938 in

1925. The contraction of this market is due to the diminished purchasing power of the native population and, as bicycles for native use are still on the borderline separating essentials from luxuries, the volume of trade in this article furnishes an accurate indication of the relative prosperity of the native population. Of the total number imported, 3,133 bicycles valued at £22,497 were cleared for consumption in Uganda. Great Britain continues to hold a commanding position in this trade, supplying 4,724 bicycles out of the total number of 4,852 bicycles imported.

Consequent upon the rapid development of motor transport and the extension of mechanical ploughing, etc., large increases in the quantities and values of imported fuel oil, petrol and kerosene were recorded during the year under review.

Notwithstanding local activities the trade statistics show increased importations of rice, wheat, meal and flour, ale, beer and stout, and timber, but a satisfactory indication of local progress in sugar and soap production is reflected in large decreases in importations of these commodities.

Re-Exports, Transit and Transhipment.

The entrepôt trade of Mombasa (including transit and transhipment traffic) is of increasing importance as, apart from the shipping and transport facilities available, the geographical situation in relation to neighbouring territories is favourable to the holding of stocks of all varieties of goods, either in bond or duty paid, for sale as opportunity offers in the markets of Zanzibar, Tanganyika Territory, Italian East Africa, and the Belgian Congo. The following are comparative figures for the years 1926 and 1927 :—

	1926.	1927.
	£	£
Re-Exports	1,591,671	1,555,502
Transit	120,861	143,538
Transhipment	171,624	200,723

Exports.

The domestic exports of Kenya and Uganda are almost entirely agricultural. Adverse climatic and marketing conditions resulted in a fall of £1,364,372 in the value of raw cotton exported, shipments in 1927 amounting to £1,692,568 as compared with £3,056,940 in 1926 and £4,694,339 in 1925. This factor tends to obscure the position so far as development of the export trade in other domestic products is concerned, as, excluding the value of raw cotton exported, the domestic exports of Kenya and Uganda increased in value from £2,953,446 in 1926 to £3,704,648 in 1927.

A large proportion of local produce exported is shipped to Empire markets, 70.6 per cent. of the value being sent to destinations in

the British Empire as compared with 75.7 per cent. in 1926. A considerable increase has taken place in shipments to Japan, 11.2 per cent. of the total domestic exports being sent to that country as compared with 2.1 per cent. in 1925 and 7.8 per cent. in 1926, this being largely due to the inauguration of direct steamship services between Japan and Mombasa.

The following is a summary of the principal commodities exported to the most important markets, relative figures in regard to 1926 being given in brackets :—

Great Britain.—Coffee £1,115,482 (£728,797), Cotton £448,769 (£1,343,156), Sisal Fibre and Tow £192,438 (£208,196), Maize £262,277 (£110,342), Cotton Seed £163,149 (£177,372), Hides and Skins £142,554 (£131,130), and Rubber £80,560 (£135,254).

India.—Cotton £848,749 (£1,258,368) and Carbonate of Soda £21,275 (£12,415).

Tanganyika Territory.—Maize Meal and Flour £33,289 (£33,068), Sugar £48,614 (£30,711).

Union of South Africa.—Coffee £54,470 (£44,892).

Japan.—Cotton £380,058 (£396,451) and Carbonate of Soda £215,972 (£65,928).

Belgium.—Sisal Fibre and Tow £173,449 (£227,794), Maize £80,123 (£72,668) and Hides and Skins £60,759 (£13,134).

Germany.—Maize £68,652 (£4,467), Sisal Fibre and Tow £34,706 (£26,090) and Hides and Skins £18,739 (£9,209).

Cotton.—The value of raw cotton exported fell from £3,056,940 in 1926 to £1,692,568 during the year under review, these figures representing 724,699 and 527,481 centals respectively, the average declared value per cental being £4 4s. 5d. in 1926 and £3 4s. 2d. in 1927. With the exception of 570 centals, the whole quantity exported originated in Uganda. The export of cotton seed amounted to 29,502 tons as compared with 35,365 tons in 1926.

Coffee.—A marked increase in the quantity and value of coffee exported was recorded in 1927, 253,319 cwt. valued at £1,310,701 being shipped as compared with 174,131 cwt. valued at £895,080 exported in the previous year or an increase of 89,188 cwt. in quantity and £415,621 in value. Of the total quantity shipped 43,514 cwt. originated in Uganda. Coffee is now shipped direct to some thirty countries, Great Britain being by far the largest market receiving in 1927 from Kenya and Uganda, coffee to the value of £1,228,050.

Maize.—Exports, originating wholly in Kenya, amounted to almost twice the quantity shipped during 1926, the quantity exported being 1,787,665 cwt. valued at £505,893 as compared with 929,178 cwt. valued at £280,596 shipped during the previous year. Great Britain was the principal market followed by Belgium, Germany, Italian East Africa, and France in the order named.

Sisal including Sisal Tow.—Also a purely Kenya export, shows an increase in the quantity exported but a decrease in value, the average declared f.o.b. value falling from £38 16s. 5d. per ton in 1926 to £29 12s. 3d. in 1927, as a result of the decline in overseas market prices. The quantity exported was 15,839 tons as compared with 14,928 tons shipped in 1926. The principal markets were Great Britain and Belgium.

Hides and Skins.—Show a satisfactory increase in exports, 77,453 cwt. valued at £262,637 being shipped in 1927 as against 59,270 cwt. valued at £207,781 exported during the previous year. Great Britain was the principal market for hides, the United States of America being the most important destination for skins.

Carbonate of Soda.—Exports of carbonate of soda obtained from natural deposits at Lake Magadi amounted to 56,675 tons valued at £263,129 as compared with 19,427 tons valued at £87,426 shipped in 1926. Of the total 46,499 tons valued at £215,972 were consigned to Japan.

Satisfactory increases are also recorded under wheat meal and flour and refined sugar consigned chiefly to the markets of neighbouring territories, whilst decreases are shown in exports of cedar wood, copra, and groundnuts.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Shipping.

During 1927 the Port of Mombasa was served by seven regular lines of steamers from Europe, i.e., the Union Castle Mail Steamship Co., Ltd., the British India Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., the Messageries Maritimes, the Compagnia Italiana Transatlantica, the Clan Ellerman and Harrison Line, the Holland-East Africa Line, and the Deutsche Ost-Afrika Line. The Osaka Shosen Kaisha Line inaugurated a service with Japan, the Ellerman and Bucknell Line maintained a service with America, and calls were made by the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, and by Danish and Norwegian Lines. Several miscellaneous oil and coal steamers discharged cargoes at the port.

A fortnightly service between Bombay and Durban, calling both ways at Mombasa, has been maintained by the British India Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., and coastal services by this Line, by the African Wharfage Co., and by Messrs Cowasjee Dinshaw and Bros. steamers have been fairly regular.

The total steam tonnage (mercantile) entered in the Protectorate ports during the year amounted to 1,742,006 tons net, represented

by 663 steamers. These figures show an increase of 262,960 tons and 58 steamers as compared with the figures for the previous year. The total tonnage of sailing vessels entered in the Protectorate ports during 1927 was 66,828 tons, represented by 3,299 vessels. These figures show a decrease of 230 vessels and 9,696 tons as compared with the previous year.

The figures for Mombasa were 593 steamers, of 1,703,896 tons net, against 522 steamers of 1,444,320 tons net in 1926, an increase of 71 steamers and 259,576 tons. The tonnage of sailing vessels amounted to 30,495 tons, represented by 1,405 vessels, a decrease of 4,129 tons and 132 vessels as compared with 1926.

Approximately 693,000 shipping tons of cargo (369,765 tons inward and 323,036 tons outward) were dealt with at the port of Mombasa, and 42,616 passengers passed through the port during 1927. The largest vessel to enter the port of Mombasa and berth alongside the deep-water quay at Kilindini Harbour during 1927 was the "Franconia," of 20,175 tons gross register, with 400 passengers on board who were on a world cruise.

During the year under review, ships urgently requiring to do so have been brought into and taken out of Kilindini Harbour after dark. Orders have been placed under which, during 1928, the whole of the lighting of the port (part acetylene gas and part electricity) will be completely modernized.

Harbours.

During 1927 the control of all ports and harbours on the coast of Kenya was vested in the High Commissioner for Transport, and a system was introduced whereby the management was placed under the General Manager of Railways and Harbours. A temporary Harbour Advisory Board was set up to advise the High Commissioner on the 22nd August, 1927.

Since the 1st July, 1927, the whole of the shore handling and lighterage of cargo at the Port of Mombasa has been performed by contractors under a ten year agreement. On the 1st July, also, the water-front and transit shed at Mbaraki, formerly worked by a private company, were absorbed into the Kilindini Harbour area, and the portion of the Mbaraki water-front south of the transit shed is now being developed for landing, stacking, and railing coal. On the 1st December, 1927, the contractors also undertook the work of loading and unloading railway trucks within the Kilindini Harbour area.

The year 1927 was the first complete year during which berths Nos. 1 and 2 of the new deep-water quays at Kilindini Harbour were in full use. Shipping came alongside freely, and the need for more accommodation is so apparent that there can be no doubt that when the two additional berths now under construction are completed they will be fully occupied.

Berth No. 3 of the new Kilindini Harbour extension, complete with transit shed, quay and shed electric cranes, rail tracks and roads, is expected to be ready for use before the end of 1928. Berth No. 4 should be ready before the end of 1929.

During 1927 the earnings at the Port amounted to £131,360, and the ordinary working expenditure to £68,687. Interest and redemption charges total £126,165 and depreciation is assessed at £10,023. The loss on port working, after taking all these charges into account, was therefore £73,515 during 1927.

Railways.

The Inter-Colonial Advisory Council held five meetings during 1927; three in Kenya and two in Uganda.

Earnings for the year in respect of Railway Services (as apart from Harbour Services) amounted to £2,126,043 and the railway working expenditure to £1,150,786, the surplus receipts over working expenditure being £975,257. After allowing for contributions to renewals funds, interest charges, etc., the net surplus of this excess transferred to betterment funds, etc., amounted to £401,986. Comparison with the figures for the previous years shows that the Railway earnings for 1927 are £67,333 or 3.27 per cent. in excess of the earnings for 1926, and £132,534 or 6.65 per cent. in excess of those for 1925. As against these increases in earnings, the ordinary working expenditure for the year 1927, notwithstanding an increase of 16.47 per cent. in the tonnage carried, was reduced in comparison with 1926 by 5.42 per cent. The percentage ratio of ordinary working expenditure to earnings was 54.13 per cent. in 1927, as against 59.11 per cent. in 1926 and 87.21 per cent. in 1922.

The carriage of public goods provided a revenue of £1,737,852 and the tonnage of this traffic amounted to 887,076 tons, as compared with £1,634,700 and 641,776 tons during the previous year. The revenue derived from passenger traffic also showed an increase over that for 1926, viz., in 1927, 1,065,225 passengers contributed a revenue of £266,326 as against 991,754 passengers and £256,918 in 1926.

Africans continued to use the railway in increasing numbers and greater use is being made of week-end and excursion tickets. The facilities in connection with steamer call excursions have been extended. It is not now a condition that the passenger must arrive at and depart from Mombasa by the same ship and it is hoped that this modification of the regulations governing the issue of these excursion tickets will induce more travellers to make the journey up-country.

The tonnage carried by Lake steamer services showed a decrease from 193,849 tons in 1926 to 168,094 tons in 1927. This shrinkage was an expected result of the opening of the through railway to Uganda.

The total tonnage carried by the Masindi Port—Butiaba motor service was 7,469 tons in 1927 as compared with 7,500 tons in 1926.

The supply of fuel was satisfactory throughout the year. The following figures show the consumption of coal, wood and oil during 1927 and 1926 :—

	1927.	1926.
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Coal	35,295	40,989
Wood	110,301	91,252
Oil	9,909	7,281

No further relaying of the main line with 80 lb. material between the Coast and Nairobi took place during the year. This work is to be resumed in 1928 and is expected to reach Nairobi by the middle of 1929.

Considerable progress has been made with ballasting from the coast to Makindu and contracts have been entered into for ballasting the Makindu—Nairobi section. The permanent way above Nairobi has been maintained in a reasonable condition throughout.

The work of strengthening bridges and culverts to carry heavier engines was completed by the end of the year.

Work on the new headquarter offices at Nairobi was begun early in 1927 and by the end of the year the walls had reached first floor level.

The work of building a new combined railway and road causeway and bridge between Mombasa Island and the mainland was begun in June, 1927. The estimated cost of the causeway is £77,000. With the exception of a small contract for the supply of coral the whole of the work is being carried out departmentally. The design provides for an earth causeway, protected by coral pitching for a 25 feet road and a 14 feet railway with a bridge of five spans of 54 feet each. The bridge is being founded on 12 feet diameter concrete cylinders, sunk to a solid foundation.

The total route mileage of open lines on the 31st December, 1927, was as follows :—

Main Line (Mombasa to Broderick Falls, via Nakuru)	<i>Miles.</i>
...	628
Kisumu Branch (Nakuru to Kisumu)	131
Nyeri Branch (Nairobi to Naro Moru)	127
Busoga Branch	61
Magadi Branch	91
Port Bell—Kampala Line	6
Solai Branch	27
Kitale Branch	41
Kahe Branch	92

Total open mileage	<u>1,204</u>
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The total track mileage, including loops and industrial sidings, amounted to 1,357 miles. The route mileage covered by Lake Services is 3,243.

On the Thika-Nyeri branch, the section from Sagana to Nyeri (32 miles) was completed and handed over for open line working on the 15th May, 1927. This hill section climbs 2,000 feet in 15 miles by the free use of 3 per cent. grades. It was built at a cost of £134,830 or approximately £4,214 per mile.

The extension of the Nyeri Branch from Nyeri to Naro Moru was begun in January, 1927, and handed over to open lines on the 1st November, 1927. The cost of this section of 16 miles worked out at £2,055 per mile.

The first section of the Uganda extension, i.e., Turbo to Broderick Falls, a distance of 30 miles, was handed over to open lines on the 1st July, 1927. The second section from Broderick Falls to Mbulamuti, completing the extension, was handed over at the beginning of 1928. The total length of the whole extension from Turbo to Mbulamuti is 184.5 miles.

Construction of the branch line to Mbali and Soroti was begun in 1927. When completed this branch will be 98.5 miles in length.

The construction of a branch line from Gilgil to Thomson's Falls was authorised in December, 1927. It is hoped to have the line completed early in 1929. The length of the branch will be 46.5 miles.

The survey of the proposed North Kavirondo Branch from Kisumu to Yala was completed early in 1927. The construction of this line, 30 miles in length, was begun in 1928.

Roads.

The public road system of the Colony and Protectorate now comprises about 2,578 miles of main road and 6,247 miles of road of less importance, most of which are mere tracks, though quite passable for wheeled vehicles except during heavy rain. The total expenditure of a capital nature on the road system during the year was £39,209, of which the sum of £15,140 was expended on the reconstruction of the Kilindini Road at the Port and the remainder on country roads. Of the total sum, £19,548 was provided from loan and £19,661 from revenue. In addition, the sum of £87,354 was expended on the maintenance and improvement of existing roads and bridges and partly on the extension of the road system.

With the exception of the streets in the more important towns and certain main country roads leading into them, the wearing surface of the public roads is the natural earth of the locality. Gradual improvement is taking place by forming and draining the more important earth roads and by special treatment of portions which become marshy in wet weather, so that most of them are

passable by wheeled vehicles throughout the year—though sometimes with difficulty—except on occasional days during exceptional rain. On the minor roads little can be done except to keep the bridges and culverts repaired and to deal with washaways.

Road work in the settled areas is now largely carried out by contract, partly by professional contractors, and partly by local residents. The road-making and transport plant of the Public Works Department was added to considerably during the year. This necessitated an increase of the European personnel for the control and operation of the plant, but enabled a considerable reduction in the native labour force to be made below what would otherwise have been required.

The extension of the Branch Railway system of the Colony during the last few years rendered it possible to take steps to establish the main roads from producing areas to railway stations on their permanent alignments in lieu of the pioneer tracks of the past with certainty that funds would not be wasted on permanent works on temporary road alignments. Much road survey work was done during the year out of the sum of £25,000 provided under loan for the purpose.

Posts and Telegraphs.

The revised scheme for the amalgamation of the Postal and Telegraph Services of Kenya and Uganda has now been in operation for three years. The scheme has worked with great smoothness and the results obtained demonstrate that under reasonably favourable conditions the unification of control of services of this character in adjoining territories presents no practical difficulty and that such unification can be effected without loss of efficiency and with distinct financial benefit to the territories concerned, side by side with public convenience and the independence of each territory in regard to development or extension of services.

The financial results of the year's working were satisfactory and reflect a steady expansion of the Department's activities, particularly in Kenya. The cash revenue for the combined services amounted to £209,487, and the recurrent expenditure to £154,268. These figures represent an increase of 9.7 per cent. and 6.9 per cent. respectively over the previous year. The total capital expenditure was £12,339 as against £13,104 in 1926. The figures for Kenya separately are :—Cash revenue, £165,100; recurrent expenditure, £112,586, representing increases of 11.3 per cent. and 7.7 per cent. respectively over the preceding year. As the value of free services rendered by and to the Post Office very nearly balance, the Kenya figures show that the Department contributed a net sum of approximately £52,500 to the general revenue of the Colony; but it must not be overlooked that in this figure no account is taken of interest and depreciation on capital sunk

in telegraph and telephone lines and plant (approximately £200,000), or pension commitments.

There was a noticeable increase, almost entirely confined to Kenya, in the value of money orders issued for payment abroad. Altogether £275,363 was remitted overseas, as compared with £244,761 in 1926. Of the former amount £240,595 or 87.4 per cent. was remitted to India. The amount remitted to India from Kenya totalled £175,069.

The total volume of mail matter dealt with (excluding parcels 190,000) amounted to 13,284,000 items, of which 10,891,000 were dealt with in Kenya. These figures represent an increase over the previous year of 18 per cent. in Kenya and 7.8 per cent. in Uganda. The parcel post still retains its popularity with traders as a means of importing high value light goods. The total value of goods so imported, chiefly from Great Britain, amounted in round figures to £400,000. The increase from 11 lb. to 22 lb. in the maximum weight allowed on parcels from Great Britain is appreciated by merchants and extensive use is being made of it.

Having regard to the fact that there is not a subsidized regular mail service between Great Britain and the East Coast, the English mail services were on the whole satisfactory. The number of arrivals averaged 1.27 per week and despatches 1.35, and the average time taken in transit each way was approximately 20 days. The Indian and South African services have, in addition to other sailings, the advantage of a regular fortnightly service by steamers under contract with the Indian Government.

Two English air mails were despatched and four received by the experimental air service undertaken by the North Sea Aerial and General Transport Company between Kisumu and Khartoum, the onward connection between Khartoum and Cairo being maintained by the Royal Air Force. The total time taken each way was about 11 days. Owing to accidents, the series of flights originally arranged was not completed, and unfortunately as those completed did not work to a fixed time schedule, little information was gained as to the extent to which the public would be prepared to pay special air fees if a regular air service was established. The experimental service had, however, the effect of stimulating public interest in the possibility of a regular air mail service as far as Cairo with all its advantages of speed and regularity. There is little doubt that such a service would be welcomed by the public at large, provided the cost to these territories was reasonably within their resources.

The Colony's main channel of overseas telegraph communication remained via the Eastern Telegraph Company's cables. The service was very satisfactorily maintained throughout the year, there being only one interruption of a few days on the Zanzibar-Mombasa cable. No inconvenience was caused as alternative local routes were available. There was a normal increase in the

volume of overseas telegraph traffic, and it may be of interest to record that 44.4 per cent. of that traffic was with Great Britain.

The "Beam" wireless service between Great Britain and South Africa, which was opened on the 1st July, was made available to the home public for telegrams to the Colony at a rate which was slightly cheaper than the cable route, but as the "Beam" route involved transmission from Cape Town over long land lines really unsuitable for handling such traffic, and through a number of separate Administrations, heavy delays occurred. For that reason the route has not become popular, nor has it been made available in the reverse direction from the Colony.

The wireless station at Mombasa, which is mainly a ships' coast station, was efficiently maintained during the year. It dealt with 2,818 radio telegrams as compared with 2,408 in 1926. The station can, when necessary, be used for passing traffic with the Zanzibar and Dar es Salaam wireless stations. Negotiations were opened during the year with the British East African Broadcasting Company, Limited—a local Company—for the establishment of a broadcasting service from a station at Nairobi, sufficiently powerful to transmit to all parts of the Colony, and a licence dated 1st September was issued to the Company under which it is required to establish a service within nine months from that date. Associated with that licence is one for a short-wave wireless installation capable of maintaining a commercial service with a corresponding station in England which the British Post Office authorities have undertaken to provide. The enterprise is entirely at the Company's risk. The proposed rates by this service will be approximately two-thirds of those at present charged by the cable route, and if the service proves successful, the Colony will have at its disposal a valuable alternative and cheaper means of communication with Europe.

Public telephone exchanges are established at Nairobi, Mombasa, Nakuru, Eldoret, Kisumu, and Ruiru, and at each there was normal development during the year. Special provision was made for the reconstruction of the external part of the Nairobi Exchange on the underground system. The cable lay-out has been arranged to conform with town-planning schemes, and the work, when completed, will not only improve the appearance of the town by leading to the removal of heavy aerial wire routes, but additional subscribers can be connected more rapidly and economically than is at present possible. Under encouragement from the Post Office, with the approval of Government, the farming community is becoming interested in the establishment of rural telephone lines on the party line system, and a number of schemes were under consideration at the end of the year. Special rates for such lines have been approved on a basis which just makes them self-supporting, and arrangements exist under which settlers can reduce their annual subscription by co-operating towards a reduction of the

capital cost by supplying free poles, transport and labour. A fairly general system of rural telephones would do much to improve amenities on farms, particularly where women and children are concerned. The main difficulty, however, is that only in a very limited number of areas is settlement sufficiently close to make the service reasonably cheap. In sparsely settled areas the length of line required makes the cost of the service rather beyond the means of the average settler no matter how economically the service may be provided.

All the principal business and administrative centres of the Colony are linked up by telegraph. Inland telegraph traffic has increased very considerably during the past few years, and as a consequence some congestion now exists on many of the main routes, particularly that between Nairobi and Mombasa. The question of affording relief on the latter route and at the same time providing for a needed additional facility which is being called for by the commercial community, by constructing a telephone trunk line between Nairobi and Mombasa, is under consideration.

The total telegraph and telephone pole mileage of the Colony is 2,173, and the wire mileage 8,237.

Post Office Savings Bank.—The results of the year's working of the Post Office Savings Bank indicate fairly considerable development. The amount standing to the credit of depositors rose from £64,721 at the close of 1926 to £78,007 at the end of 1927, representing an increase of 20.5 per cent. Deposits exceeded withdrawals by £13,286, an increase of 71.3 per cent. over the corresponding figure for the previous year. An amount of £1,608 was paid or credited to depositors in respect of interest as compared with £1,374 during the previous year.

The number of European, Asiatic, and African depositors in the Savings Bank at the end of the year was 1,523, 2,716, and 779, respectively, as compared with 1,380, 2,408, and 693 at the close of 1926. In addition there were 32 trust accounts. During the year, 1,039 accounts were opened and 487 closed, as compared with 889 and 396, respectively, during the previous year.

Efforts have been made to popularise the Savings Bank among Africans, but so far without any real results so far as the great mass of the African population is concerned. It is almost inevitable that this should be so in view of the Africans' present state of development. A knowledge of the Bank and its advantages is, however, steadily growing among Africans of the house-boy, artisan, and clerical classes.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

Justice.

The total number of civil cases filed in the Supreme Court during 1927 was 645, an increase of 58 over the figure for 1926. Three hundred and seventy-four of these cases were filed in Nairobi.

The number of Probate and Administration cases filed in 1927 was 175, as compared with 211 in 1926; of Insolvency cases 41, as compared with 48 in 1926; of Trust Causes 5, as compared with 1 in 1926. There were 40 civil appeals from Subordinate Courts, 156 original criminal cases committed for trial to the Supreme Court, 46 criminal appeals from Subordinate Courts, 884 confirmation cases, and 152 criminal revision cases, giving a total of 2,144 cases filed in the Supreme Court in 1927, as compared with 1,921 in 1926.

Resident Magistrates' Courts dealt with 13,330 cases, as compared with 11,522 in 1926. Of these, 5,303 were civil cases and 8,027 criminal cases.

The total number of civil cases tried in all Courts in Kenya was 10,898, an increase of 2,049 over the figure for 1926.

A total of 30,367 persons were brought before the criminal courts during 1927. Of these, 1,386 were Europeans, 1,920 Asiatics, and 27,061 Africans; 25,542 persons were convicted, including 1,037 Europeans, 1,393 Asiatics, and 23,112 Africans. The number of convictions is 6,547 greater than the corresponding figure for 1926. This very considerable total increase is not, however, caused by a large increase in serious crime. Convictions for petty offences under Revenue, Municipal, Road, and other laws relating to the social economy of the territory, account for an increase of 5,578 over the figures for such offences in 1926, and convictions under laws relating to the employment of natives (i.e., the Employment of Natives and the Resident Native Labourers Ordinances) account for an increase of 502 over the corresponding figures for 1928. There is an increase of 302 convictions for offences against property other than malicious injury to property and theft of stock and produce. There was an increase of 23 in the number of convictions for malicious injury to property, a decrease of 11 in the cases of theft of stock and produce, and the number of persons convicted of offences against the person fell from 972 in 1926 to 938 in 1927.

A new Civil Procedure Ordinance came into force on the 1st August, 1927. The new procedure seems to work well and smoothly and enables plaintiffs in undefended actions to obtain speedy relief with a minimum of expense and also saves defendants in undefended cases from being mulcted in excessive costs. The new Ordinance and Rules bring the law of Civil Procedure more in line with English law and are a decided improvement on the old Indian Code.

The new Bankruptcy Ordinance, which was modelled on the English Bankruptcy Act of 1914, came into force on 1st March, 1927.

Police.

The duties of the Kenya Police, a force comprising European, Asiatic, and African personnel, in the prevention and detection of crime, are confined in general to the settled and non-native areas of the Colony. Units of Police are also stationed in Native Reserves, where the administration of justice is largely assisted by the Native Authorities.

Housebreaking and theft figure prominently in the crime statistics of Kenya. Closer settlement and the corresponding increase in European dwellings and buildings widen the field and provide opportunities for the commission of offences against property.

By the inauguration of systems of surveillance and patrolling, serious crime of the predatory class has been much reduced in volume.

The Criminal Investigation Department, inaugurated in 1926, continues to make progress. Its scope was extended by the assignment to it of the work of forming a central registry for firearms and ammunition.

Prisons.

The daily average number of persons in custody, including prisons and detention camps, during 1927, has been nearly 18 per cent. higher than in 1926.

As regards the Prisons Staff, improvement has been effected by the employment of European Chief Warders and, more recently, by the appointment of European Technical Instructors to train African convicts as artisans.

The technical training now being afforded to an increasing number of convicts enables the Prison Authorities to secure well-paid employment for them on termination of sentence, thus reducing the probability of recidivism.

The general health of prisoners during the year has been slightly better than in the preceding year.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The expenditure on works and services controlled by the Public Works Department during 1927 amounted to £656,007. Of this sum, £296,602 were expended on works under execution out of Loan Funds.

The principal new works either completed or in progress during the year fall under three heads, namely :—

- (1) Water Works and Drainage.
- (2) Roads.
- (3) Buildings.

Under the first of these heads Kisumu Water Works were almost completed at the end of the year at a cost of £24,004; Eldoret Water Works were in progress, the expenditure during the year

being £21,534, out of an estimated total cost of £30,000, while extensive replacements and additions to Nakuru Water Works were nearly finished by the end of the year at a cost of £8,773. Schemes were prepared for six other township water supplies, and three important drainage products were investigated in detail.

Under the head of Buildings, five works of magnitude were under construction, namely: the Government Houses at Nairobi and Mombasa, Nairobi School, Nakuru School, and Eldoret School, which were in progress during the latter part of the year. A considerable programme of buildings of lesser magnitude, consisting of hospitals, offices, police stations, bungalows, housing for African employees, etc., at various localities were under execution.

As regards the maintenance of existing public works, three town water supplies were administered and yielded a gross revenue of £31,270. The public road system, consisting of over 8,000 miles of road and tracks, was maintained and improved at a cost of £87,354. Public buildings were maintained at a cost of £24,722.

During the last half of the year a service for the purpose of boring for water on farms and in badly watered parts of the Colony was inaugurated on lines which had been found successful in South Africa. The successful results obtained before the close of the year justified the belief that this service would be of material advantage in the development of the Colony.

Towards the end of the year plant for the seasoning of local timber, comprising six kilns having a capacity of 600 tons per annum, was installed near the Public Works Joinery Workshops in Nairobi. It is hoped that by this means the timber of the Colony will be rendered suitable for joinery and the necessity for importing timber for this purpose will be obviated.

Sixty-seven permits for the diversion and use of public water for various purposes were issued by the Public Works Department during the year. Of these 36 were for the development of power but were individually of comparatively small importance, comprising in the aggregate the diversion of 309 cubic feet of water per second for the generation of 354 horse power. Preliminary investigations were made by a local company with a view to the utilisation of one of the principal waterfalls of the Colony for the development of electrical energy.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The most notable event which occurred in the medical history of 1927 is in connection with research, and concerns not only this country but England and elsewhere.

After the visit to this country of Dr. J. B. Orr, of the Rowett Research Institute, in 1926, in connection with the proposed pasture investigation, the Sub-Committee of the Civil Research Committee responsible for the original proposal decided to extend

the scope of the investigation to problems of human as well as animal nutrition. With funds provided by the Empire Marketing Board, two special research officers have been employed in the country; not as independent investigators, but working in closest collaboration with the local people. The experiment is proving a success, not only from the value of the information which is being collected, but from the fact that it has been proved that research can be conducted by special investigators working with men on the spot.

The year 1927 saw the completion of the period of digestion and absorption which arose from the appointment of a large number of new officers during 1926.

Two new centres, namely Kitui and Teita, were opened in the Native Reserves.

A Medical Officer of Health has been appointed to Nakuru on account of the considerable development which is taking place in the township, and also because of the urgent necessity of instituting sanitary measures at this centre of the grain trade. Combined with duties at Nakuru the Medical Officer of Health has been responsible for both Eldoret and Kitale.

The first appointment of a Medical Officer of Health to a Native Reserve took place in the latter half of the year. The experiment has proved a complete success.

Work in Native Reserves has progressed generally. Local Native Councils have taken an increasing interest in health matters. Large sums of money are being voted by the Councils for medical and other objects.

On the coast useful measures are being taken against hookworm infestation. The willing co-operation of the people themselves holds out great promise of definite and important results, which will be fraught with economic potentialities.

Throughout the Reserves generally work is being organised so that, combined with the treatment of individuals, information about diseases and instruction in simple hygiene is imparted, while at the same time information bearing on the pathological condition of the population is being collected.

The country has been free from epidemics of serious disease. Plague requires watching, but no outbreaks of any magnitude occurred during 1927.

Smallpox was introduced into Nairobi from India and uneasiness was caused from the fact that cases came under notice from a considerable area, extending as far out as the Fort Hall Reserve. Original cases had remained concealed. Probably owing to the wholesale vaccination campaign which was conducted two years ago the outbreak did not assume any magnitude.

The epidemic of malaria which was experienced in 1926 did not recur, possibly owing to the fact that the rains generally were on the short side. The problem is to be tackled energetically in

Nairobi; the Government has made available a sum of £20,000 to be expended in Nairobi during 1928. The Municipality and Railway Authorities have indicated their willingness to share in the expense.

The International Sleeping Sickness Commission, part of whose labours were conducted in Kenya, has dissolved, and its report may be expected before long.

It was possible during the year to conduct a comprehensive population survey of the Lake shore. Over 200,000 individuals were examined and only 380 cases of trypanosomiasis were detected, these mostly being found in three well defined areas. In one small location, consisting of a population of 800 odd, over 100 cases were found. Measures to deal with the most thickly infested areas are being undertaken. The small area referred to as being especially heavily infected is to be evacuated. Other steps will include clearing of the Lake shore, and the construction of watering places. All cases which were found were adequately treated in order to render them non-effective.

Progress in respect of the scheme for the provision out of loan funds of hospitals in various parts of the country has not been as rapid as was hoped. A small hospital at Kitui is almost completed, while work has been commenced on a hospital and other medical buildings at Kakamega Station.

IX.—EDUCATION.

Government schools have been established for the provision of education of European, Indian, Arab, and African children. Private and missionary enterprise supplements State institutions; the latter is largely subsidised from Government funds. There are four Central Advisory Committees which deal with the education of each race, and there are four School Area Committees in connection with European education, four for Indian education, and twelve for African education.

The Administration was further strengthened during the year by the addition of another Inspector of Schools. The work of these officers has been concerned mainly with Arab and African education, but they have also been used as occasion requires in respect of European and Indian schools.

European Education.—There are Government schools at Mombasa, Nairobi, Nakuru, Thika, Nanyuki, Eldoret, and Kitale. Including Farm Schools, there are twenty-five schools for Europeans in different parts of Kenya, twelve being Government schools and two receiving a grant in aid. The erection of three elementary Government schools in different parts of Nairobi was sanctioned towards the end of the year and progress was made with the construction of the schools at Nairobi and Nakuru.

Certain private schools for boys and girls maintain a high standard of attendance and attainment. There are seven rural schools on farms in Uasin Gishu, six of them supported by State funds, while one is State-aided.

There were 1,375 European children attending school at all European schools in 1927. Of these, 644 were at Government schools. The cost of European education, exclusive of administration expenses and the cost of buildings, totalled £36,092.

Indian Education.—The Government assumed responsibility for three Indian schools which had previously existed on a grant-in-aid basis at Machakos, Thika, and Fort Hall, and several other Indian schools were added to the grant-in-aid list during 1927. A number of new private schools were opened during the year. Altogether there were 32 Indian schools in existence at the end of the year, of which nine were Government schools and 12 aided schools.

There were 2,522 Indian children attending school during the year. The average attendance at Government schools was 1,371. The cost of Indian education, exclusive of administration expenses and the cost of buildings, totalled £17,318.

Arab Education.—Arab schools are established at Mombasa, Malindi, Ganda, and Mambui. The attendance at the two first-named schools was 414 as against an attendance of 393 in 1926. An improvement is recorded in the school work at these schools and the Arab boys are paying more attention to physical culture.

African Education.—Government schools exist at Kabete, Waa, Nandi, Kericho, Machakos, Narok, and Kajiado, and there is a Jeanes School at Kabete for the training of supervisors of African village schools. Schools are maintained by all the principal missionary societies. There are also police schools in many important centres, and large numbers of village schools situated throughout the Native Reserves.

The average roll in Government schools during 1927 totalled 761. Attendance at the Native Industrial Training Depot at Kabete rose from 140 in 1926 to 260 in 1927. There are more than fifteen hundred African schools on the register and the total number of African children attending school is estimated at 82,793, but the figures cannot be determined with precision as it is difficult to get into touch with all existing private schools. Even heads of Missions find it difficult to obtain reliable statistics of some of their more remote village schools and the attendance at those schools is often of a fluctuating and undependable character.

Considerable progress was made in the erection of buildings at the Native Industrial Training Depot and extensions were made at the Jeanes School.

Several groups of boys from the Training Depot were employed under European Leading Artisans on works in different parts of

the Colony, and other technical schools, such as Waa, also assisted in public works of importance.

The Jeanes School, at Kabete, continues to do valuable work. A vacation course for teachers was instituted in 1927 with successful results. A reunion of teachers was also held and gave them an opportunity of discussing difficulties met with in their labours in the field.

The cost of Arab and African education, including grants to missionary societies, was £52,429 in 1927.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

The total area of land alienated as at 31st December, 1927, was 6,720,640 acres, of which 516,175 acres are freehold and 6,204,465 acres are leasehold. This land is held under the following titles:—

(a) Freehold.

(b) Leasehold under the Crown Lands Ordinance, 1902, for a term of 99 years.

(c) Leasehold under the Crown Lands Ordinance, 1915, (Chapter 140, Revised Laws of Kenya) for a term of 999 years.

(d) Leasehold under the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Ordinance, 1919, which is subsidiary to the Crown Lands Ordinance, 1915.

(e) Freehold under the Land Titles Ordinance, 1908, applicable only in the Kenya Protectorate.

The earliest Government titles issued in the country were under the Land Regulations, 1897, but practically all these have been surrendered in exchange for new titles under the Crown Lands Ordinance, 1902, or the Crown Lands Ordinance, 1915.

The Crown Lands Ordinance, 1902, under which a considerable area of land is held, provided for leasehold grants for a term not exceeding 99 years at rentals varying from a minimum of 6 cents to a maximum of 24 cents per acre per annum. The rent is non-revisable for the whole period of the lease, except in the case of titles issued under Rules of 1911, 1912, and 1914, respectively, where the rent is revisable in the 33rd and 66th years. No specific development conditions were laid down except the proviso that the lessee would use and develop the natural resources of the land with all reasonable speed having regard to all the circumstances of the case.

Provision was made under the Crown Lands Ordinance, 1902, for direct freehold grants for areas not exceeding 1,000 acres. Many farms were granted under this provision. The policy of Government, however, gradually tended towards leasehold grants and since 1912 no freehold grants have been made.

(2) The Crown Lands Ordinance, 1915 (Chapter 140 Revised Laws of Kenya), repealed all previous land laws except with reference to titles already granted or promised thereunder.

Ordinary farm leases issued under the Crown Lands Ordinance, 1915, contained the following main provisions :—

(a) The term of lease is for 999 years from the date of the grant.

(b) The rent is at the rate of 20 cents. of a shilling ($2\frac{1}{2}$ d.) per acre per annum for the first period, revisable in 1945 and every thirtieth year thereafter, the rate of such revision being :

For the second period, 1 per cent. of the unimproved value of the land.

For the third period, 2 per cent. of the unimproved value of the land.

For the fourth period and each subsequent period, 3 per cent. of the unimproved value of the land.

(c) Development conditions are imposed to the extent shown in the following schedule :

<i>Area of Farm.</i>	<i>Minimum Value of Improvements to be effected within the first three years of the Lease.</i>	<i>Nature of Improvements.</i>
300 acres or under	20s. per acre subject to a minimum of 600s.	Permanent.
Over 300 acres ...	6,000s., and in addition 4s. per acre in respect of every acre over 300 acres.	Permanent and permanent or non-permanent.

Additional improvements to the extent of 50 per cent. of the above figures under each heading are to be effected within a further period of two years, and the total development must be maintained for the remainder of the terms of the lease.

(3) Under the provisions of the Ex-Soldier Settlement Scheme in 1919 about 1,000 farms were allotted; the grants are governed by the Discharged Soldier Settlement Scheme Ordinance, 1921—now Chapter 141 of the Revised Edition of the Laws of Kenya—which is subsidiary to the Crown Lands Ordinance, 1915. A small portion of the land available was devoted to free grants divided into areas not exceeding 300 acres each. The major portion of the available land was divided into farms ranging from 300 to 5,000 acres each, the leases of which were sold to allottees at from 3s. to 50s. per acre, according to the class and situation of the land.

Provision was made for the purchase price to be spread over 10 years free of interest or over 30 years with interest at 5 per cent. per annum on the outstanding balance. When, however, the initial stage of development laid down by the Ordinance for the first three years of holding had been completed, the allottee could apply for complete remission of the purchase price. In the

majority of cases allottees have taken advantage of this provision. The grants in both cases are for 999 years and are subject to the usual provisions of the Crown Lands Ordinance, 1915, as regards rent and development.

(4) Privately owned land in the Kenya Protectorate (as distinct from the Colony) is chiefly in the hands of Arabs, Indians, and the Coast natives. The Land Titles Ordinance, 1908, which has been applied to the greater part of the area, provides for the hearing of claims and the issue of Certificates of Titles by the Recorder of Titles, whose headquarters are at Mombasa.

(5) Township plots alienated by Government between 1902 and 1915 are held under the Crown Lands Ordinance, 1902. In some townships (notably Nairobi) a number of freehold grants were made, but for the most part plots are held under leasehold conditions. Alienations of township plots since 1915 have been under the Crown Lands Ordinance, 1915. The usual term of leases is 99 years, the lessee covenanting to build within a given period, but many of the earlier leases were for a period of 25 years, with a proviso for extension to 50 years or 99 years respectively, according to the type of building erected.

Land Transfer and Sub-Division.—Land already alienated under any of the beforementioned forms of tenure may be acquired by private purchase subject to certain provisos. Consent to transfer any whole property held under ordinary leasehold conditions is not now required, but the transfer of sub-divisions can be effected only subject to the approval of the Government. Freehold property may be sub-divided and transferred without consent, subject to compliance with township rules, if within a township, or the Public Health (Building) Ordinance if outside a township. In the case of a transaction affecting land between parties of different races the Governor in Council has the power of veto.

Registration of Titles.—Crown titles are now issued under the Registration of Titles Ordinance, 1919, which is an adaptation of the Torrens system of land tenure. Property thus held may be dealt with by the use of prescribed forms on the payment of the requisite registration fees and the stamp duty. Titles issued prior to the enactment of this Ordinance are registered under the Crown Lands Ordinance, 1915, and other registration regulations of earlier date. Upon all transactions affecting the transfer of immovable property stamp duty to the extent of approximately 2 per cent. *ad valorem* is payable.

The year 1927 was comparatively uneventful, as important impending changes in land policy and administration resulted in land alienation in general being held in abeyance; no grants of large or important areas were made during the year. No auctions of farms took place but sales of township plots were held in Kyambu, Machakos, Gilgil, Lumbwa, and Eldoret.

The revenue derived from sales and rents of land, survey fees, sale of maps, etc., amounted to £104,780, an increase of £148 on the figures for the previous year.

The number of documents registered during the year amounted to 5,998, as against 5,542 for 1926. An important change in the method of stamping documents came into force in July by the introduction of the Over-Embossing System. It is anticipated that the scheme will be a considerable financial success by the prevention of fraud with regard to the use of revenue stamps a second time. The revenue derived from registration fees, stamp duty and conveyancing fees amounted to £55,703, showing a decrease of £3,853 as compared with the revenue for 1926.

The Nairobi Area Town Planning Authority under the Chairmanship of the Commissioner of Lands submitted a reconnaissance report in the early part of the year. Detailed work required for the production of a final scheme was commenced in December and steps were taken to secure the continuance of the work in 1928 through the Nairobi Municipal Staff Organisation.

Gradual but definite progress was made during the year in carrying out the Mombasa Town Planning Schemes and Land Acquisition in connection therewith.

During the latter part of the year under review the Kenya Advisory Committee (a local body formed to work in conjunction with the East African Trade and Information Office in London) began the formulation of a Closer Settlement Scheme with a view to increasing the settlement upon the land of local and overseas applicants.

Survey.

During the year 1927 a Survey Branch of the Land Department, under the direction of Land Surveys, was responsible for the control of surveys in the Colony, and the administration of the Land Surveyors Ordinance, 1923. Branch offices under District Surveyors were maintained at Mombasa, Nakuru, Eldoret, and Nyeri.

The activities of the Department were mainly confined to the preparation of schemes for the development of the growing townships of the Colony and to the execution of these schemes on the ground. No trigonometrical or topographical work was done owing to lack of staff and no extensive survey of unalienated Crown land was undertaken.

There were, in addition to the official surveyors of the Department, seven firms of licensed surveyors practising in the Colony, for the control of whose work the Department was responsible. These surveyors were engaged on the sub-division of private estates and in some cases on Government work in connection with the town planning of Mombasa Island.

All surveys sent in, whether by official or private surveyors, were examined by a staff of computers in the office of the Director of Land Surveys.

The existing topographical maps cover the greater portion of the Colony. Those maps are in general fairly accurate but in many cases they are out of date and require revision, enlargement, and extension.

XI.—LABOUR.

In the supply and stability of native labour, in the conditions of its employment, and in the relations between employer and employed the year under review has shown a steady and consistent advance.

The flow of labourers has been continuous and adequate, and although, as must inevitably be the case, there are employers who have not been able to get all the labour that they want, it can be said of the country as a whole that there has been no general shortage during 1927.

It is probable that the easier situation has been assisted by development of the use of labour-saving devices, especially in agriculture.

Where a short time ago land was laboriously hoed, now tractor and cultivator rapidly plough the fields and sweep the weeds away, saving time, money, and labour units as they go, and giving the more intelligent and advanced of the labourers an opportunity of earning improved wages by learning to handle the machinery.

There have been no serious cases of strike or discontent. This is partly due to both the employer and the labourer becoming used to their mutual relationship and partly to the progressively liberal attitude of most employers towards the conditions of employment, an attitude which Government has done much to foster. The personal relationship between employer and labourer is as a rule excellent and the defaults which do occur are chiefly due to incapacity or misfortune, and not as a rule to deliberate dishonesty or bad faith. Continuous progress is being made to improve the material conditions under which labourers live and work, especially by the larger employers. On most estates a better scale of rations is issued; permanent housing is not only contemplated but is being erected; anti-malarial and anti-plague measures are maintained; improvement is manifest in conservancy and sanitation; and better arrangements are made for dealing with the sick.

Better conditions and greater aptitude on the labourer's part for performing his work have led in many instances to increased individual output, and as this is mostly in those kinds of work which are paid for at piece rates everybody concerned benefits.

Squatter labour which is the mainstay of the general farmer is not advancing in efficiency as rapidly as estate labour. Its conditions resemble very closely those of the Reserves from which it comes, and it is of a more conservative type than that which seeks

contract employment, and as it is not subject to the inherent risks attending the congregation of labourers in lines or compounds, the measures necessary to avoid these risks are not required.

On the whole the labour conditions of the Colony may be considered satisfactory, and there is no reason to suppose that they will not continue to be so for the immediate future.

XII.—LEGISLATION.

Twenty-nine ordinances were passed during the year, of which the following are the more important :—

Bills of Exchange.—Ordinance 7 represents the English Bills of Exchange Act, 1882, as amended by the Bills of Exchange (Crossed Cheques) Act, 1906, and the Bills of Exchange (Time for Noting) Act, 1917, with such minor adaptations as are necessary to suit local conditions.

Customs Tariff.—Ordinance 9 prescribes the provisions which will apply in regard to the levy and collection of import duty as between the Kenya Government and the Government of any territory with which an agreement has been entered into under section 263 of the Customs Management Ordinance, 1926, whereby the Government of the territory in which duty has been collected will make a payment in respect of that duty to the Government of the territory to which the goods are subsequently removed. The object of an agreement under that section is to avoid the payment of double import duty on goods passing between the territories concerned.

The Ordinance provides that where the tariff of import duties is the same in each territory, goods upon which duty has been collected in the other territory may pass in Kenya without payment of any additional duty. Provision is made, however, for cases in which the import duty upon goods removed into Kenya may be higher than the duty originally paid in the territory from which they were removed. In such a case payment of a part of the import duty is required from the importer. Provision is also made for the cases in which goods are removed from Kenya to another territory in which the import duty may be lower than the duty originally paid in Kenya. In this case a refund of a part of the import duty paid is allowed to the original importer. This refund is necessarily limited to circumstances in which the amount of duty paid can be accurately ascertained and is confined to cases where the removal is effective within a limited time.

European Officers' Pensions.—Ordinance 11 regulates the pensions, gratuities, and other allowances to be granted in respect of the service of European officers in Kenya.

King's African Rifles Reserve of Officers.—Ordinance 12 provides for the establishment of a Reserve of Officers in connection with the King's African Rifles. The object of the Ordinance is that in the event of an emergency arising the battalions of the King's African Rifles may be brought up to strength without delay and in order to provide for the replacement of casualties.

Stamps.—Ordinance 13 amends the Stamp Ordinance so as to co-ordinate Kenya legislation with the law in force in Uganda and Tanganyika as completely as local conditions permit, the rates of duty in Kenya being on the whole lower than those of the territories mentioned.

Railways.—Ordinance 15 provides for the regulation, control and management of railways, ports, harbours, and steamer services in Kenya and for matters incidental thereto. The Ordinance in the main reproduces the East Africa Railways Ordinance. Certain alterations and modifications necessitated by the creation of the office of High Commissioner for Transport have been made.

Ancient Monuments Preservation.—Ordinance 17 provides for the preservation of ancient monuments and objects of archaeological, historical, and artistic interest.

Asiatic Officers' Widows' and Orphans' Pensions.—Ordinance 20 makes provision for granting pensions to widows and children of deceased Asiatic public officers.

Mention may be made of the following ordinances and the Rules thereunder brought into operation during the year:—

The Civil Procedure Ordinance, 1924, is based on Indian Act V of 1908, but the Rules under the Ordinance are so framed as to introduce, as far as possible, English practice. Both the Ordinance and the Rules came into operation on the 1st August, 1927.

The Bankruptcy Ordinance, 1925, and the Rules thereunder, both of which follow the English law on the subject, came into force on the 1st March, 1927.

A Bill to provide for the organisation of the European inhabitants of the Colony of Kenya for the defence thereof was passed in the Legislative Council on the 14th May, 1927. Proposals for the inauguration of a Defence Force in Kenya were, after discussion at public meetings held throughout the Colony, first placed before the Legislative Council in August, 1921. Owing to the wide powers contained in the Bill it was not then proceeded with. In January, 1923, the Defence Force Bill was again before Council and passed its second Reading without a division in November of that year. Certain amendments to the Bill were suggested by the Imperial Defence Committee and were considered by a Select Committee

of Legislative Council. A remodelled draft, based in principle on the Defence Force Bill as passed in 1923, which provided for the compulsory enrolment of male British subjects between the ages of 18 and 50 years, and containing the modifications proposed by the Imperial Defence Committee, was published on the 16th March. Some of the proposals contained in the measure, particularly those regarding compulsory enrolment, met with criticism from a section of the European community, but this criticism received no support in the Council, European Elected Members voting unanimously in favour of the Bill. The Bill ultimately became law on the 2nd July, 1928. Referring to the Defence Force Ordinance in his speech to the Legislative Council on the 30th August, 1927, the Governor said :—

“ I hope that in all parts of the Colony people will now combine to make that measure a success. It will prove invaluable for the morale of such a Colony as this and for the training of generations to come, and I can assure all that it will be so administered as to inflict no loss of freedom or dignity or time on those who have already been trained to arms.”

APPENDIX.

Statement showing the quantities and values of the annual export of the principal commodities during the last five years.

	Quantities.						Values.				
	Unit of Quantity.	1927.	1928.	1925.	1924.	1923.	1927.	1926.	1925.	1924.	1923.
Coffee ...	cwt.	209,843	140,964	135,207	160,880	139,060	1,140,549	747,453	723,180	799,420	491,416
Maize ...	"	1,787,665	929,178	1,172,560	1,144,050	870,701	505,893	280,596	406,276	381,144	249,545
Sisal ...	"	305,986	294,568	287,260	228,305	176,400	468,974	579,499	531,129	396,777	236,044
Hides ...	"	47,884	51,631	62,063	47,854	35,301	163,096	180,423	260,866	177,888	90,840
Skins ...	"	66,580	72,103	60,590	80,404	52,660	67,377	76,559	64,849	84,605	37,552
Wool ...	"	7,423	7,454	4,948	4,409	4,387	64,561	62,450	37,776	24,498	24,567
Skins (Sheep and Goats)	No.	1,164,520	990,185	825,424	716,726	568,609	61,625	55,480	54,605	35,919	27,233
Maize Meal ...	cwt.	91,425	70,240	35,376	—	—	38,430	38,056	18,232	—	—
Sugar ...	"	25,329	22,312	5,549	2,972	—	37,052	29,553	9,614	6,268	—
Groundnuts ...	"	24,960	37,062	18,238	30,977	39,160	22,564	30,941	19,184	26,826	32,924
Skins (Miscellaneous)	No.	35,545	3,790	3,617	6,474	593	21,510	3,893	2,483	858	502
Pulses ...	cwt.	36,780	28,370	23,632	56,281	30,024	19,903	20,396	16,228	24,499	21,860
Wattle Extract ...	"	21,229	12,396	9,203	—	—	19,188	11,156	2,966	—	—
Wattle Bark ...	"	44,082	36,537	89,964	71,416	17,794	17,338	13,702	28,991	17,901	5,836
Cotton ...	"	4,400	7,309	8,260	2,190	605	15,030	32,750	41,000	11,860	3,026
Copra ...	"	14,725	22,085	31,295	30,271	14,457	14,070	25,763	35,915	46,473	13,521
Potatoes ...	"	43,105	49,019	33,803	36,521	22,349	10,036	10,994	7,726	8,342	6,492

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